

Hafa Adai!

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## Tydingco out as IPI lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**P**hillip J. Tydingco will no longer be the general counsel of casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC effective next week.

He disclosed this yesterday at a hearing before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, saying he will no longer be with IPI after Dec. 13 and will not be representing IPI in any cases after that day.

Tydingco told Manglona that Kelley Butcher will be filing a notice of appearance in Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's lawsuit against IPI.



Tydingco

See TYDINGCO on Page 4

### DOL raises cutoff for overtime pay

» **New rule has no impact on CNMI**

The U.S. Department of Labor's new rule regarding overtime pay for salaried workers, which goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2020, raises the salary level defining employee eligibility for overtime pay from \$23,700 to \$35,568.

Employees below this level

#### ON THE NET

[www.dol.gov/whd/overtime2019](http://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime2019)

are automatically considered eligible for overtime pay. Employees that earn more than this amount, and who perform duties that are "executive, administrative or professional" are not eligible for overtime pay.

See DOL on Page 4

### Contractor's suit vs IPI dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a former contractor against IPI

and unnamed co-defendants. Manglona, however, allowed IPI's former contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, to amend its lawsuit.

The judge basically found that Pacific Rim failed to

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Photo shows the façade of Imperial Pacific Resort.  
MARK RABAGO

### INSIDE



#### ASIA

A powerful typhoon blew across the Philippines after slamming ashore overnight.

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#### WORLD

At least 208 people in Iran have been killed amid protests Amnesty International said.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Melania Trump is celebrating American patriotism at the White House this Christmas.

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# Local

## Judge found correct in his E-Land suit ruling

### » Manglona stays proceedings for 30 days in Vincent Torres' appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho was correct in ruling

that he no longer had jurisdiction to entertain Vincent DLG Torres's motion to clarify his decision to dismiss the lawyer's claims in his lawsuit against E-Land World Co. Ltd. and others.

the case.

Manglona said the proper procedure was to request a stay or suspend the proceedings in the high court pending Camacho's indication of his inclination to grant the motion for clarification, and then move to remand.

Still, although Torres has not asked for a stay with the Supreme Court, it shall stay Torres' appeal for 30 days pursuant to the high court's inherent authority and in the interest of judicial efficiency, Manglona said.

Thus Torres may now ask Camacho whether he will entertain the motion for clarification.

Manglona said if Camacho indicates he is inclined to grant the motion for clarification, Torres must then move to remand the appeal to allow Camacho to rule on the motion for clarification.

Manglona said if Camacho indicates he is not inclined to grant the motion, Torres shall

inform the high court within three days of entry of Camacho's order.

Manglona noted that Camacho may not, without first receiving permission from the high court, grant or deny the motion.

Manglona said the proceedings are hereby stayed for 30 days. On or before the termination of the stay, if Camacho indicates he will consider or grant the motion, Torres must move for a remand in the high court to allow him to rule on the pending motion.

If Camacho does not indicate his intention, Manglona said, Torres must request an extension of the stay.

Manglona said if Camacho indicates he would deny the motion, Torres must either file an opening brief or file a voluntary dismissal of the appeal.

Last Aug. 26, Camacho ruled that Torres lacked stand-

ing to maintain his claims against E-Land World Ltd. and co-defendants, as a direct, rather than a derivative action.

Last Sept. 23, Torres filed a notice of appeal. He subsequently filed a motion for clarification in the trial court on whether the Aug. 26 order was a final judgment.

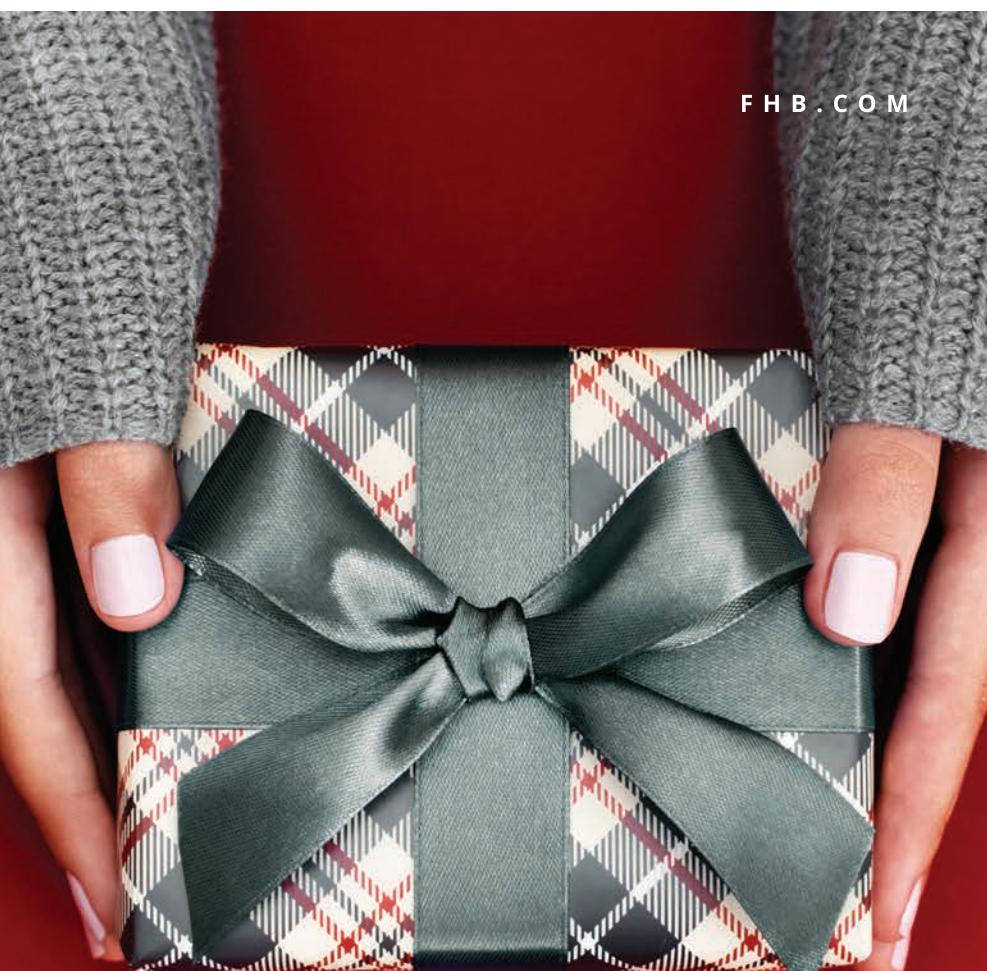
Camacho ruled that the notice of appeal divested him of jurisdiction over the case and therefore could not hear the motion.

Torres then filed the motion to remand so that he may seek clarification from Camacho.

Torres argued that, because an entry of judgment has not occurred, the trial court still retains jurisdiction.

In dismissing Torres' claims last Aug. 26, Camacho ruled that the lawyer lacks standing to maintain claims for corporate harm as direct actions since such claims must be brought derivatively regardless of the size of the corporation.

See JUDGE on Page 4



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# Cannabis Commission eyes agency meetings on regs

The Commonwealth Cannabis Commission would be meeting with several government agencies as they move beyond the halfway mark on writing the rules that will govern the CNMI's emerging cannabis industry.

Reconvening next week, Cannabis Commission chair

## PSS still on austerity

By MARC A. VENUS  
marc\_venus@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The central government may have already lifted the austerity measures it implemented in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu's catastrophic impact on the Commonwealth, but the Public School System, an autonomous agency, continues to be under its own austerity regime.

A source earlier said the 72-hour work hour schedule is still being observed and this was confirmed by Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, who assured that he is working with the CNMI Board of Education to find ways to get PSS out of austerity.

Both PSS and BOE are autonomous bodies, which means they are self-governing entities, with their own leadership structure that is separate from the central government.

Ada said he is also focusing on getting the schools back to full sessions, as per board member MaryLou Ada's request, by early next year.

The BOE has decided to bring the discussions of removing PSS and the BOE out of austerity back to the board's

## FROM 3R, IT'S NOW 5R

### Miss Earth takes up 5R cause

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Miss Earth Northern Marianas Leisha Deleon Guerrero has taken up the 5R Campaign, which intends to push the idea of "Reduce. Reuse. Refuse. Respect. Rethink." as part of her advocacy for environmental awareness and sustainability.

The campaign will last until Dec. 8, Sunday.

"As Miss Earth NMI, it is my responsibility to lead our community and the youth to be part of this beneficial change within our islands," Deleon Guerrero said.

The 5R campaign is a call for members of the community to reduce the amount of waste they generate, to reuse materials, to refuse excessive packaging, to respect the environment, and to rethink lifestyle choices.

"The Miss Earth NMI pageant and mission is one of the most relevant to date, considering we are in a global climate crisis. Miss Earth is also known for our motto 'Beauties for a Cause' and that's exactly what

Nadine Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* last Monday that the commission would be meeting with at least 10 government agencies to discuss the commercial aspect of the cannabis regulations.

Among the agencies the commission would be meeting

with are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Commerce, the Division of Alcohol, Beverage, and Tobacco Control, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Division of Customs, among others.

"Depending on the appropriateness of where we are currently at with the regulations, we are divvying up the work in terms of meeting with the different agencies to come back and reconvene for a session next week," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Also on the commission's

list is the Public School System and Deleon Guerrero said it is only one of a handful of other agencies that they would meet in the future.

"There are about 10 agencies that we named. ... What we are trying to do is align the agencies that we are working with to where we are with the regulations," she said. "... We are closer to getting into [these agencies'] jurisdictions, so until we discuss that portion of the regulations with the appropriate agencies, we won't be meeting with them [yet]."

The Cannabis Commission has a deadline of March 11,

2019, to complete the regulations, exactly 180 days after the creation of the commission on Sept. 12, 2019. When asked, Deleon Guerrero noted that she is confident in the commission's ability to meet that deadline, but a bit shaky when it comes to some needs for medicinal regulations.

"I know for sure the home-grown and the commercial [will be completed before the deadline]. The medicinal, we are discussing back and forth what the possibilities are because the problem is the laboratory [for testing concentrations]," she said, adding that

while it was not a mandate to have a laboratory set up in the CNMI, she noted that the commission believes a lab must exist for testing.

"In terms of the regulations, if it were to be rolled out without the lab, then yes, it would meet the deadline," she added. (Erwin Encineras)

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# Scheduled water service interruption

There will be a scheduled emergency water service interruption for the areas of Kannat Tabla, El

Toro Road, portions of As Perdido and As Terlaje today, Dec. 4, 2019, from 9am to 12pm.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp.'s water operations personnel to perform maintenance repairs on the

Pressure Reducing Valve on Kannat Tabla Drive near the CMS Quarry in Kannat Tabla. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For more information, con-

tact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

## TYDINGCO

From Page 1

It was Tydingco who argued IPI's motion in Pacific Rim's lawsuit. Pacific Rim used to be a contractor for IPI's Imperial Pacific Resort project in Garapan.

Tydingco refused to comment when asked later for the reason for his departure

from IPI.

Colin Thompson, who is counsel for Pacific Rim, said he was taken by surprise by Tydingco's decision.

Details of the search warrants executed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on IPI and several others last Nov. 7 and 8 came to light after IPI, through Tydingco, filed last Nov. 14 in the District Court a motion to stay a civil case

lodged against IPI by seven construction employees for alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the casino resort's worksite in 2017.

The search warrants that were filed as exhibits in IPI's

motion are sealed, but were leaked on social media.

The search warrants were executed at Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' office and house, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services

LLC, Legend Realty Saipan, the Torres Brothers' law office, and IPI's accounting office.

Tydingco joined IPI as general counsel in August 2017.

Tydingco used to serve as chief prosecutor and chief

deputy attorney general of Guam. He also used to work as assistant attorney general and senior prosecutor with the CNMI Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

## CONTRACTOR

From Page 1

adequately plead diversity jurisdiction.

Diversity jurisdiction case means that the plaintiff, Pacific Rim, and defendant, IPI, and co-defendants are different citizens from different states.

Manglona said what she is trying to protect is having an erroneous assumption as to the citizenship of the parties, including the unnamed co-defendants.

Manglona also denied without prejudice Pacific Rim's application for mechanic's lien on the same issue of jurisdiction.

Pacific Rim was allowed to amend its application to place a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land that it sits on.

A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

IPI's general counsel, Phillip J. Tydingco, requested that the hearing on the mechanic's lien be postponed.

Tydingco argued that Pacific Rim's response effectively concedes that their complaint does not contain allegations to support issuance of a mechanic's lien under Commonwealth law.

Manglona set a hearing on Pacific Rim's application for a mechanic's lien for Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 1:30pm.

Manglona said the amended application for mechanic's lien is due no later than today, Wednesday, and briefs are due no later than Friday, Dec. 6.

In an interview after the hearing, Tydingco said their motion for judgment on the pleadings is like a motion to dismiss and that the judge granted it. However, the judge allowed Pacific Rim to re-file all the paperwork.

"I guess that they just need to refile it and follow whatever the court thought was defi-

cient," Tydingco said.

In a separate interview, Pacific Rim counsel Colin Thompson said they will be amending their complaint and will be back next week on their application for a mechanic's lien.

Thompson said Manglona's dismissal of the complaint has something to do with pleadings and the way they alleged diversity jurisdiction.

"The judge was not satisfied the way we alleged that. We will be making new allegations to establish that," Thompson said.

Thompson said what was heard was limited to the issue whether this case could be heard in all the federal court or has to be heard in the Superior Court.

Thompson said Manglona stated that it could be heard in the District Court if diversity jurisdiction is established.

On the mechanic's lien issue, Thompson said the judge denied it on same reason because if the District Court has no jurisdiction in the case, then the case is not going to move forward.

"We have to fix that first before we can move forward on the application for lien and we will be doing that right away and we will be back here next Tuesday to present our case," he said.

The lawyer said Manglona wants to amend the wording, the language, of Pacific Rim's allegations about diversity jurisdiction. "Who are these LLCs? What is their citizenship? Pacific Rim LLC and IPI LLC. What is their citizenship for the purposes of the federal court's interpretation," Thompson said.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed upon construction work for IPI's casino-resort project on Sept. 30, 2018.

Thompson said IPI owes Pacific Rim \$5.65 million.

## JUDGE

From Page 2

A derivative action refers to a lawsuit brought by a shareholder of a corporation on behalf of the corporation to enforce or defend a legal right or claim.

Last Sept. 23, Torres, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, filed a notice informing the Superior Court of his appeal of the dismissal order. Torres sought a reversal of that dismissal.

Torres wants clarification whether the dismissal of the

three claims is with prejudice or without prejudice and whether he will have an opportunity to file an amended complaint.

Dismissal with prejudice bars Torres from re-filing the claims, while without prejudice allows him to refile them.

Torres had earlier expressed disappointment with the dismissal of his three claims.

Torres said the court's order states that he should file the claim as derivative lawsuit on behalf of the corporation, but that, as far as he is concerned, there are only two sharehold-

ers of Suwaso Corp.

E-Land is the majority shareholder of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Suwaso Corp. owns COP.

Torres said Yusuke Fumoto sold all of his shares to Micronesian Resort Inc., which leaves only him (Torres) and MRI as the shareholders of Suwaso Corp.

In the Aug. 26 decision, Camacho dismissed Torres's claims for fraudulent concealment and usurpation of corporate opportunity, breach of fiduciary duty, and assisting a breach of fiduciary duty.

Torres is suing the defen-

## DOL

From Page 1

There will be no difference in how overtime is computed in the CNMI. Based on the new rule, USDOL will set a special salary level of \$455 per week for CNMI employees. That sets the cutoff amount at \$1,972 per month, which is the current exempted rate in the CNMI.

The new rule, which USDOL announced on Sept. 24, 2019, makes 1.3 million American workers newly eligible for overtime pay.

This updates the earnings thresholds necessary to exempt executive, administrative and professional employees from the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage and overtime pay requirements, and allows employers to count a portion of certain bonuses/commissions towards meeting the salary level.

The thresholds were last updated in 2004. The department estimates that 1.2 million additional workers will be entitled to minimum wage and overtime pay as a result of the increase to the standard salary level. The department also estimates that an additional 101,800 workers will be entitled to overtime pay as a result of the increase to the HCE compensation level.

"For the first time in over 15 years, America's workers will have an update to overtime regulations that will put overtime pay into the pockets of more than a million working Americans," said acting U.S. Labor secretary Patrick Piz-

zella. "This rule brings a commonsense approach that offers consistency and certainty for employers as well as clarity and prosperity for American workers."

### Key provisions

The final rule updates the salary and compensation levels needed for workers to be exempt in the final rule:

■ Raising the "standard salary level" from the currently enforced level of \$455 to \$684 per week (equivalent to \$35,568 per year for a full-year worker);

■ Raising the total annual compensation level for "highly compensated employees," or HCEs, from the currently enforced level of \$100,000 to \$107,432 per year;

■ Allowing employers to use nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments (including commissions) that are paid at least annually to satisfy up to 10% of the standard salary level, in recognition of evolving pay practices; and

■ Revising the special salary levels for workers in U.S. territories and in the motion picture industry.

■ Additionally, the DOL intends to update the standard salary and HCEs total annual compensation levels more regularly in the future through notice-and-comment rulemaking.

### Standard salary level

The DOL is setting the standard salary level at \$684 per week (\$35,568 for a full-year worker). The salary amount accounts for wage growth since the 2004 rulemaking by

using the most current data available at the time the DOL drafted the final rule. The DOL is updating the standard salary level set in 2004 by applying to current data the same method and long-standing calculations used to set that level in 2004—i.e., by looking at the 20th percentile of earnings of full-time, salaried workers in the lowest-wage census region (then and now the South), and/or in the retail sector nationwide.

### HCE total annual compensation requirement

The DOL is setting the total annual compensation requirement for HCEs at \$107,432 per year. This compensation level equals the earnings of the 80th percentile of full-time, salaried workers nationally. To be exempt as an HCE, an employee must also receive at least the new standard salary amount of \$684 per week on a salary or fee basis (without regard to the payment of nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments).

### Special salary levels for US territories, movie industry

The DOL is maintaining a special salary level of \$380 per week for American Samoa because minimum wage rates there have remained lower than the federal minimum wage. Additionally, the DOL is setting a special salary level of \$455 per week for employees in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the CNMI.

The DOL also is main-

taining a special "base rate" threshold for employees in the motion picture producing industry. Consistent with prior rulemakings, the DOL is increasing the required base rate proportionally to the increase in the standard salary level test, resulting in a new base rate of \$1,043 per week (or a proportionate amount based on the number of days worked).

### Treatment of nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments

In the final rule, in recognition of evolving pay practices, the DOL also permits employers to use nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments to satisfy up to 10 percent of the standard salary level. For employers to credit nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments toward a portion of the standard salary level test, they must make such payments on an annual or more frequent basis.

If an employee does not earn enough in nondiscretionary bonus or incentive payments in a given year (52-week period) to retain his or her exempt status, the DOL permits the employer to make a "catch-up" payment within one pay period of the end of the 52-week period. This payment may be up to 10 percent of the total standard salary level for the preceding 52-week period. Any such catch-up payment will count only toward the prior year's salary amount and not toward the salary amount in the year in which it is paid. (USDOL/Saipan Tribune)

## Video clip shows two suspects in Gualo Rai burglary

By MARC A. VENUS  
marc\_venus@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is looking for two men who have been suspected of burglarizing a Gualo Rai home last Nov. 16, with a surveillance video allegedly catching the two in the act.

A police statement said that DPS received a 911 call at about 8:03pm that same day reporting a burglary and theft incident at a private residence in Gualo Rai.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Please call the any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KAGE), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

#### Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 7

Christmas in the Marianas will be celebrated every Saturday during December 2019 from 6pm to 10pm at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, featuring live entertainment, food sales, arts and crafts, and more.

On Dec. 7, high school and middle school students will present Christmas caroling. For more information, visit the Marianas Visitors Authority Facebook page (MyMarianas) or contact Community Projects coordinator Ray Villagomez at [rvillagomez@mymarianas.com](mailto:rvillagomez@mymarianas.com) or (670) 664-3210. (MVA)

Police arrived at the scene and met with two individuals who live in the home and they immediately showed police the surveillance footage of two suspects walking through the front gate. The individuals told police that their mother's bedroom was found disarranged, with several items missing. Police soon noticed one room had all its drawers opened, with belongings scattered throughout the home.

Video surveillance shows the two suspects, one wearing a dark hooded jacket and the other wearing light-colored clothing and a light-colored cap, walking out of the home with stolen items.

DPS reports the following as missing: one silver-colored Asus laptop, one white iPhone,



Dauterman



Guerrero



Claros



Certeza



Rambayon



Meno Jr.

one brown Louis Vuitton suitcase, one silver necklace with a Jesus cross, one Louis Vuitton gold pen, two black Louis Vuitton purses, and two black Louis Vuitton wallets.

Last Oct. 30, a Koblerville

home was burglarized and the suspect stole a laptop, two pairs of sunglasses, a Gucci wallet and purse, and a Celine Boston bag. DPS confirmed no arrests have been made in relation to that case.

## UOG names distinguished alumni awardees

**MANGILAO, GUAM**—The University of Guam named the winners of its 2019 UOG Distinguished Alumni Awards in a ceremony last Nov. 23 at the Lotte Hotel Guam.

University leaders, winners' family members, and UOG alumni were present at the event.

Legislative certificates were also given to each of the winners. In August, UOG's Office of Development & Alumni Affairs and the UOG Alumni Association put out a call for nominations with a deadline of Oct. 18.

All nominees' application packets were rated in the fol-

lowing areas: 1) Professional accomplishment in the field: has the nominee attained a high level of distinction and achievement through scholarship, research, teaching, creative contributions to the arts (comprising Humanities, Performing and Fine Arts, Social Sciences and Business) or sciences (comprising Science, Engineering and Health Sciences) and/or service to society? 2) Does the candidate exhibit a high degree of character and integrity? 3) Does the candidate show civic and University involvement, awareness and concern? 4) Does the nomi-

nee's achievements have local, national and/or international significance?

And the awardees were:

#### ■ Dr. Philip Dauterman

Acting chief medical examiner of Guam

#### College of Natural and Applied Sciences

BS Biology, 1986

#### ■ Jillette Leon Guerrero

Guamology, Inc., president UOG Board of Regents, former member

#### College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

BA Anthropology, 1981

#### ■ Paul Claros

Head coach, Custom Fitness LLC, co-owner

### School of Health

BA Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 2005

#### ■ Roland Certeza

GTA Teleguam, chief executive officer

### School of Business and Public Administration

Master of Business Administration, 2010

#### ■ Atilana Rambayon

Retired educator

### School of Education

MA Elementary Education, 1973

#### ■ Serafin Chargualaf

Meno Jr.

Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army (retired)

BBA Finance and Economics, 1992 (PR)

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More information and nomination request forms can be found at [sablan.house.gov](http://sablan.house.gov) or by calling 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

**NOMINATION REQUEST DEADLINE: DECEMBER 13, 2019**

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## Blind and 55 years old or older? OVR can help!

Are you or anyone you know 55 years old or older and is legally blind or is severely visually-impaired? You can get help from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's newest caseworker.

Marlena M. Litulimar is OVR's newest caseworker for its Independent Living for Older Blind program that is intended to help those who are legally blind or severely visually-impaired, whose corrected vision in the better eye is 20/70 or worse.

"I love helping people," Litulimar said. "Before this, I worked for the WIC program, for women, infants, and children. I am thankful for this

opportunity because helping people...is my passion."

OVR offers information and referral, advocacy training, peer counseling, diagnostic vision, eyeglasses or other visual aids, self-sufficient health maintenance training, family support, transportation, including help with equipment to be more mobile such as canes, walkers, talking watches, hearing aids, and more.

Those who do not know their corrected vision will be referred by the ILOB caseworker to an eye clinic for a vision exam. Eligibility for the services will be based on the vision report.

"My goal is to increase the number of participants we have for the program," Litulimar said.

The good news is OVR is currently working on updating policies and procedures to make the eligibility requirement more lenient, even with restrictions, so that more people can avail of the services.

"The 20/70 eligibility

criteria is concrete so either we

have a public hearing to [make the changes], or just go ahead and make those changes," Borja-Arriola added.

Borja-Arriola has been working with the Older Independent Blinds-Technical Assistance Center to address concerns about clients being unable to meet the eligibility criteria, with a lot of them already having applied to avail of the services for up to seven times.

"Right now...the eligibility criteria is concrete so either we

**Social Security expands public hours at offices nationwide**

Starting on Jan. 8, 2020, Social Security offices nationwide will be open to the public on Wednesday afternoons.

This change restores Wednesday public service hours that were last in place in late 2012.

"I don't want someone to come to our office at 2:30pm

on a Wednesday, only to find our doors closed," said Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security.

In another move to improve service to the public, Saul announced that the agency is hiring 1,100 frontline employees to provide service on the

agency's national 800 number and in its processing centers. The agency is currently bringing onboard 100 new processing center employees and approximately 500 new teleservice representatives for the 800 number. An additional 500 hires for the 800 number

will occur later in 2020.

"Improving service is my top priority. Increasing full public service hours at our nationwide network of more than 1,200 field offices is the right thing to do and will provide additional access," Saul said. "The hiring of a thousand new employees to provide service through our national 800 number and an additional 100 hires to process people's Social Security benefits at our processing centers around the country are steps in the right direction in our mission to greatly improve the service we provide."

Currently, a field office is generally open to the public from 9am to noon on Wednesdays. Beginning on Jan. 8, 2020, offices will remain open until 4pm on Wednesdays, with typical field office hours from 9am until 4pm, Monday through Friday.

While the agency continues to improve both the access to and the experience with its services, it is important to note that most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create a "my Social Security" account, a personalized online service, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Through their personal "my Social Security" account, people can check personal information and conduct business with Social Security. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can start or change direct deposit online, and if they need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a current Benefit Verification Letter from their account.

People not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized "Social Security Statement," which provides earnings history information as well as estimates of future benefits. Currently, residents in 40 states and the District of Columbia may request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

Many Social Security services are also conveniently available by dialing toll-free, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security's TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. (PR)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

### Li Chen

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Li Chen is proposing to occupy a structure to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 017 D 08 in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Conf. Room, 2nd floor Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, December 17, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

### Vertical Aviation, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Vertical Aviation LLC is proposing to construct two helipads and a hangar/ warehouse to operate a heliport for its helicopters. This use is classified as "Heliport/ Helipad" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos 117 D 11 and 117 D 13 in Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Conf. Room, 2nd floor Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, December 17, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

### NEW OFFICE HOURS

The Social Security Administration's office hours in Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa are shown below. Changes will be effective Jan. 8, 2020.

### Hawaii (Honolulu, Kapolei, Hilo, Wailuku and Lihue)

Phone : 1-800-772-1213  
 TTY : 1-800-325-0778  
 Hours :  
 Monday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Tuesday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Wednesday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Saturday Closed  
 Sunday Closed

### Guam Social Security office

Phone : 1-800-772-1213  
 TTY : 1-800-325-0778

Hours :  
 Monday 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 Tuesday 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 Wednesday 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 Thursday 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm  
 Saturday Closed  
 Sunday Closed

### American Samoa

Phone : 1-800-772-1213  
 TTY : 1-800-325-0778

Hours :  
 Monday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Tuesday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Wednesday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Saturday Closed  
 Sunday Closed

### Northern Mariana Islands

Phone : 1-800-772-1213  
 TTY : 1-800-325-0778

Hours :  
 Monday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Tuesday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Wednesday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm  
 Saturday Closed  
 Sunday Closed

## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Rm, 2nd flr. Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/20/2019 meeting minutes
5. Adoption of 11/26/2019 special meeting minutes
6. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

### B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2019-4307:** Li Chen is proposing to occupy a structure to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 017 D 08 in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-4533:** Vertical Aviation LLC is proposing to construct two helipads and a hangar/ warehouse to operate a heliport for its helicopters. This use is classified as "Heliport/ Helipad" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot Nos 117 D 11 and 117 D 13 in Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial.

### C. Communication

### D. Old Business

### E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
2. Board decision/ action on Independent Services Contract for interim professional & technical support for the administration of the Zoning Office.
3. Board decision/ action on Job Vacancy Announcement (Zoning Administrator position)
4. Board decision/ action on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation for publishing in the Commonwealth Register

### F. Executive (Closed) Session

### G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

### H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Acting Zoning Administrator, Yubert Alepuyo, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman

## GCA student shares exciting experience at NJSDA

Beatrice Ryza Fabre, a sixth-grader at Grace Christian Academy, was "very excited" to join the National Junior Speech & Debate Association competition for the first time.

"I felt nervous but, more than that, I felt happy because my parents were there for me," she said. "With the help of our coach, Ms. Grace, I was able to have the confidence to win. And...we did it!"

The NJSDA speech competition was for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Fabre, who won first place in both Prose Reading and Poetry Reading, and one second place in Impromptu Speech, did well for a novice competitor. She was one of two novice competitors in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade division. Luis Cataluna, also a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and neophyte in this competition, won two awards.

Fifteen GCA students in 6th-8<sup>th</sup> grade competed in the NJSDA, while five GCA students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade competed in the National Speech & Debate Association for the monthly qualifying competitions in November. Most of the GCA competitors won in two or all events and most of them won at least one event that they joined in despite a lot of other activities in school.

These competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in reading, public speaking, debate, and interpretations.

GCA family would like to thank especially the GCA competitors for doing the best they can in accomplishing their goals and to all the parents, volunteer judges, and coaches for their support and all the help they have given in these competitions.

### NJSDA WINNERS

#### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

- Rafael Busby, 2nd Place

#### Impromptu Speech A

- Beatrice Ryza Fabre, 2nd Place
- Gabriel Angelo Retardo, 3rd Place

#### Impromptu Speech B

- Andrew Jeren Nunez, 2nd Place
- Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 3rd Place
- Rafael Busby, 4th Place

#### Extemporaneous Speech

- Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 5th Place

#### Declamation

- Jennifer Woo, 1st Place

#### Prose Reading B

- Luis Cataluna, 4th Place

#### Prose Reading C

- Beatrice Ryza Fabre, 1st Place

#### Prose Reading Masters B

- Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 2nd Place

#### Prose Reading Masters C

- Jennifer Woo, 1st Place

#### Poetry Reading A

- Beatrice Ryza Fabre, 1st Place
- Luis Cataluna, 4th Place

#### Poetry Reading Masters A

- Kei Lizama, 3rd Place
- Rafael Busby, 5th Place

#### Poetry Reading Masters B

- Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 1st Place

#### Poetry Reading Masters C

- Jacqlene Troi Torres, 5th Place

### NJSDA WINNERS

#### Original Oratory A

- Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place

#### International Extemporaneous Speech

- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place

#### United States Extemporaneous Speech

- James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
- Ao Feng Louis Zheng, 2nd Place

#### Impromptu Speech A

- James Alexander Keaton, 2nd Place
- Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 4th Place

#### Commentary

- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place
- James Alexander Keaton, 2nd Place
- Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 3rd Place

#### Prose Reading Masters B

- Na Lee Christy Lee, 2nd Place

#### Poetry Reading Masters A

- Na Lee Christy Lee, 5th Place

#### NJSDA/NSDA coach/coordinator: Grace Duran



Grace Christian Academy's November winners at the National Junior Speech & Debate Association competition pose for a souvenir photo inside the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library at the school's Navy Hill school campus on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Grace Christian Academy's November winners at the National Junior Speech & Debate Association competition pose for a souvenir photo inside the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library at the school's Navy Hill school campus on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Competition registrar: Esther Domingo Manzano

Special coach for debate: Belle Busby

Judges/volunteer: Desolee Pangilinan, Claude Aquino, Calayo, Arvin Dayao, Martin Clarisse Dacumos

# How's Your Hearing?

**Specializing in:**

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 4:00pm**  
**at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan**



**Ross Hearing Aids**

All interested patients should call  
 Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling  
**234-3925/7**  
 Most Insurance Accepted



**Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS**  
 Board Certified in Hearing  
 Instrument Sciences  
 Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

# Skymark starts Tokyo-Saipan daily flights



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Skymark Airlines president Masahiko Ichie, third and fourth from right, respectively, led the ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 29, 2019, at Tokyo-Narita International Airport in Japan to mark the launch of regular, direct daily flights to the Marianas. From left are a Skymark cabin attendant; Narita Airport Authority Corp. president and CEO Asahiko Tamura; Chiba Prefecture Policy and Planning Department deputy executive director Kotaro Nakamura; Ichie; Torres; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism administrator Yasuo Ishii; and Skymark pilot.



The inaugural Skymark Airlines regular, direct daily flights from Tokyo, Japan, to the Marianas received a water cannon salute at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Nov. 29, 2019.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



A passenger flashes a "hang loose" upon arrival in the Marianas on Nov. 29 2019, aboard the inaugural daily flight of Skymark Airlines from Tokyo to Saipan.

MVA



Passengers arriving aboard Skymark Airlines inaugural daily flights from Tokyo, Japan, to the Marianas on Nov. 29, 2019, are greeted by Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Sasamoto, Marianas-chan (in blue), and island girls.

MVA



Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Sasamoto greets passengers arriving aboard Skymark Airlines inaugural daily flight from Tokyo to the Marianas at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Nov. 29, 2019.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Officials of the CNMI government and Skymark Airlines hold a press conference at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Nov. 29, 2019, to mark the inauguration of direct, daily flights from Tokyo, Japan, to the Marianas. Seated from left are Skymark chair Nobuo Sayama, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Skymark president Masahiko Ichie, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce. Standing from left are House Transportation Committee chair Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan), House Tourism Committee chair Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), House Speaker B.J. Attao (R-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Saipan), Japan Consul Kazuhiko Ono, Skymark deputy GM of International Flight Preparation Office John Furuya, Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberly King-Hinds, and CPA director Barry Toves.

MVA

Japanese carrier Skymark Airlines Inc. launched direct daily flights from Tokyo to the Marianas on Nov. 29, 2019, marking what is expected to be a revival of Japanese tourism to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and other officials from the Marianas joined Skymark Airlines president Masahiko Ichie at a flight launch ceremony at Narita International Airport before taking the three-and-a-half-hour flight to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, where passengers were greeted by an entourage led by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Sasamoto and island children also presented shell

leis and other gifts to arriving passengers.

"This is the day we have been looking forward to for many years," said Torres. "With the arrival of Skymark's daily direct flights, the Marianas is ready to welcome back our Japanese visitors to our beautiful islands. ... This is truly a great day in our Commonwealth's history."

The flights are the only direct service between the Marianas and its once dominant source market for tourists. The flight arrival was followed by a press conference at the airport, where Torres expressed his thanks to the airline for choosing the Marianas as its first international destination. A reception was held that evening at Hyatt Re-

gency Saipan.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is committed to supporting the revival of the Japan tourism market with marketing and promotions support," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "It remains our objective to have a diversification of tourism source markets to help ensure the stability of our Marianas tourism economy. The return of Japan is a much-needed part of that diversification, and we look forward to welcoming more Japanese visitors to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

The flights depart Tokyo daily at 10:15am, arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 3pm. In addition to its regular three-

tiered fare types, Skymark has introduced a "Saipan Special" to mark the launch of the new route. The special is for travel through March 28, 2020, and offers one-way travel originating on Saipan starting at \$38 (fuel surcharge and tax additional). (MVA)



The Skymark Inaugural Flight Launch Reception is held on Nov. 29, 2019, at Hyatt Regency Saipan to celebrate the start of daily, direct flights between Tokyo, Japan, and the Marianas.

MVA



Skymark Airlines chair Nobuo Sayama speaks as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres looks on during the press conference on Nov. 29, 2019, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, marking the beginning of the airline's daily, direct service to the Marianas from Tokyo, Japan.

MVA



# Regular voting ends as Bougainville considers independence

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—They voted in highland villages and on remote atolls. Even 15 youth who live in the jungle and wear bright Upe hats as they undergo traditional training to become men had the chance to vote.

All across the Pacific region of Bougainville, people have voted in a historic referendum to decide if they want to become the world's newest nation by gaining independence from Papua New Guinea.

Regular voting ends on Tuesday while any remaining postal votes will be accepted through Saturday. The results will be an-

nounced in mid-December.

The referendum is nonbinding, and a vote for independence would then need to be negotiated by leaders from both Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. The final say would then go to lawmakers in the Papua New Guinea Parliament.

Chief Referendum Officer Mauricio Claudio said there had been long queues and high enthusiasm at many of the 828 polling places.

"During polling we've witnessed a festive and joyous mood," he said. "There have been dancing troupes and whole communities getting together."

Claudio said that giving Upe men a chance to vote at male-only polling stations was one of many referendum firsts. He said election officers hiked for two hours into the jungle to collect the votes.

The young Upe men can remain isolated from their communities for several years as they learn about culture, medicine, hunting and other skills. During this time, they wear the tall, woven Upe hats that hide their hair and are forbidden to be seen by women.

Election officers also traveled by overnight boat to get to some of the five offshore atolls

and visited a police lockup to collect votes from prisoners.

Claudio said there was only one disruption, in the Konnou area, where a long-simmering dispute led police to advise referendum officers to close one polling station. The affected voters got a chance to cast their ballots elsewhere.

Complicating the voting process were the limited communications throughout the region and the traditional way many people live, including not owning any photo identification. Added to that, the Bougainville Referendum Commission only secured its funding in March.

But more than 40 U.N. staffers and over 100 international observers helped oversee a process that Claudio said had gone remarkably well.



Graphic: Staff, TNS

The referendum is a key part of a 2001 peace agreement that ended a brutal civil war in which at least 15,000 people died in the cluster of islands to the east of the Papua New Guinea mainland.

The violence in Bougainville began in the late 1980s, triggered by conflict over an enormous opencast copper mine at Panguna. The mine was a huge export earner for Papua New Guinea, but many in Bougainville felt they got no benefit and resented the pollution and disruption to their traditional way of living.

The mine has remained shut since the conflict. Some believe it could provide a future revenue source for Bougainville should it become independent.

Experts believe people the 250,000 to 300,000 people of Bougainville will vote overwhelming in favor of independence ahead of the other option, which is greater autonomy.

But the process of becoming a separate nation could take years to achieve.

## UFO to host traditional 'Pistang Pinoy'

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organizations, with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, present *Paskong Pinoy* 2019 (Filipino Christmas) on Dec. 15, Sunday, 11am to 8pm, at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds in Susupe.

Started in 1997, the UFO *Paskong Pinoy* celebrates Christmas festivities the traditional Filipino way for Filipinos on the island to get together and enjoy, to ease the sadness of being away from home during the holidays.

"Most of us consider Saipan

our second home," UFO president Mar Masilungan said. "During the Christmas season, we miss our own family back home and having this kind of event brings joy, happiness, and lessens being homesick."

The celebration also draws hundreds of people who want to feel the spirit of Christmas the Filipino way.

The "Pera o Kahon" game show will be the highlight of *Paskong Pinoy*, where one lucky participant will have a chance to win \$1,000.

Various activities await all participants including a choral contest, *parol*/lantern contest,

and entertainment numbers for the crowd to enjoy, as well as a lot of prizes for raffle drawings. Raffle tickets will be sold at the venue during the festivity.

Children will also get the chance to participate in different games, in the Christmas art-making contest, and in the gift-giving.

For those who are interested to join the contests, be a vendor, or to donate, call Masilungan at 483-9440, UFO press officer Carlito Marquez at 989-8905, and UFO past president and *Paskong Pinoy* adviser Anna-mae Adaza at 285-4388.

## WANTED

## NEWS REPORTER

Saipan Tribune is looking for **FULL-TIME** news reporters.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- **Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;**
- **Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;**
- **Computer literate;**
- **With photography skills;**
- **Must have reliable means of transportation.**

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). You may also drop it off at the Saipan Tribune office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. **ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.**

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 | Telephone: (670) 664-2374 | Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

### INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB20-GOV-015

#### FEMA DR-4235-MP 404 HMGP Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water System Mitigation Project

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Arnold I. Palacios, through the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), (collectively, "Commonwealth") and on behalf of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) are soliciting sealed bids for the supply, construction and implementation of the CUC Water System Mitigation Project located at various sites on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available and may be obtained at Pacific Quick Print & Post, in Garapan, Saipan beginning November 22, 2019 for \$100.00 (non-refundable), payable to Pacific Quick Print & Post. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIA) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Thursday, December 5, 2019, 10:00 am ChST** at the Governor's Conference in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero in writing by e-mail to [ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp](mailto:ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp) or fax to (670) 664-2408 on or before **Wednesday, December 13, 2019**. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-015 Supply, Construction and Implementation of the CUC Water System Mitigation Project**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST December 30, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST December 30, 2019** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [a.magofna@ofd.gov.mp](mailto:a.magofna@ofd.gov.mp). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 30, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than **January 9, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:30 a.m. ChST, January 13, 2020. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:30 a.m. ChST, December 30, 2019.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is 240 Calendar Days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be \$1,000/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

### BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, inquiring the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIA Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIA Section 70-30.3-725(b).
- **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIA Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez  
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director  
CNMI Procurement & Supply

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Honor tribe's treaty right to hunt whales

**T**he 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay could not be clearer: The U.S. government agreed the Makah Tribe, natives of the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula, had "the right of taking fish and of whaling."

Yet across nearly a century, the tribe has organized just one whale hunt, a much-protested outing in May 1999. Starting in the 1920s, the Makah stood down from whaling because of global over-harvest of whale populations. With the once-endangered Eastern North Pacific gray whale population now flourishing, the tribe should be allowed to resume the traditional, treaty-guaranteed hunts around which generations of Makah built a culture.

The traditions of the tribe's canoe-based whale hunts are held sacred and passed down within families. Yet regular hunts have been stymied for 20 years by protests, bureaucracy and legal objections.

Species survival is no longer a reason to stop the Makah from hunting whales. Researchers estimate there are almost 27,000 Eastern North Pacific gray whales today, though the Western North Pacific population remains endangered. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has tracked the status of these pods of whales for years and considers the current Eastern numbers approximately the maximum the habitat can sustain.

Throughout an extensive legal process that now awaits a federal administrative law judge's decision, the Makah have agreed to exercise their right to hunt within guidelines. The tribe has conscientiously complied with years of federal requirements to get permits to restore these traditions.

An unsanctioned 2007 hunt by five Makah members drew swift tribal condemnation and federal prosecution. The Makah have consented to important restrictions in future hunting: taking no more than 20 whales over the next decade, planning hunt details to minimize the chance of harming endangered whales and using high-powered firearms to quickly end the suffering of harpooned whales.

Makah tribe members have responded to repeated requests to publicly explain the cultural importance of hunting whales. The tribe carries no legal responsibility to justify its traditions to outsiders, especially when permission to carry them out has been codified so explicitly. But to help the greater community understand the centrality of whale hunts to their tribal identity, Makah members have provided answers.

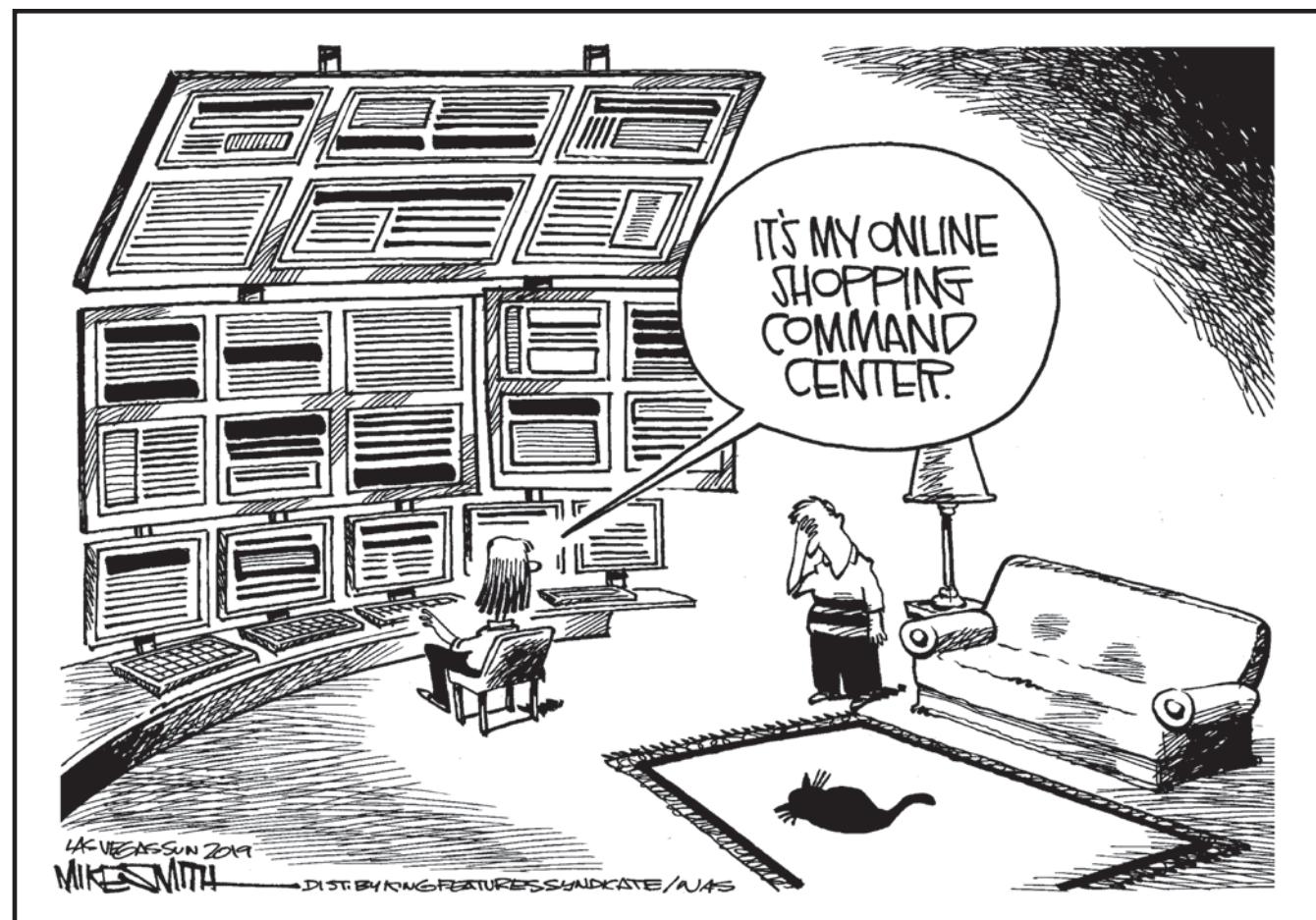
Requests that the Makah abandon whaling because neighbor tribes have done so smacks of racism, Makah treasurer Patrick DePoe said.

"To think that we're all the same is just ..." DePoe said, shaking his head. "Those are our brothers and sisters down there, but we're not Quileute. We're Makah."

DePoe sees public hearings and a likely federal court lawsuit by anti-whaling groups as the next required steps in the tribe's long procedural path. After years of fighting the battle in court, even a hope the tribe's next whale hunt will happen in 2021 seems optimistic, he said.

The treaty is clear. The obstruction should stop.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times



## Who profits from 'crimmigration'? Not America

**T**he world watched in horror last year as the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy left thousands of children separated from their parents with many held in cages at the border. But what was lost in the outrage was that while unconscionable and inhumane, the family separation policy was just a grotesque extension of a decadeslong shift to criminalizing immigration, a practice known as "crimmigration."

Crimmigration—advanced by both Democratic and Republican administrations—is the intersection of immigration and criminal law, and while most alive today don't remember any other way, it is a relatively new phenomenon in the U.S. It can be traced back to the early 1980s when "crime" became used as a surrogate for race as a more socially acceptable rationale for "get tough" policies that disproportionately targeted Black and Latino people and led to the explosion of mass incarceration.

Under the crimmigration system, migrants are incarcerated for trying to come to the United States, over 100,000 in 2018 alone. A multitude of offenses large and small are increasingly deemed "aggravated felonies" to create a rationale for detaining undocumented immigrants. Asylum seekers are imprisoned for following the law and showing up in person to make their claim for safe harbor. This, against a backdrop of an immigration process that is prohibitively difficult to successfully navigate under "legal" processes.

University of Denver law professor Cesar Cuahtemoc Garcia Hernandez, author of the new book "Migrating to Prison," said it's critical to understand this approach is not just the natural order.

"We now think of immigration prisons as essential to a functioning immigration law enforcement system," Garcia Hernandez said. "But the reality is that between the mid-1950s and the late 1970s, we didn't really lock people up. For 25 years or so ... the United States got really close to shutting down its immigration prison system. And the country did not come tumbling down."

Today, the U.S. has the world's largest immigrant detention system, according to the Global Detention Project, holding over 50,000 people a day in a network of jails and private detention centers.

U.S. immigration policy has always been underpinned by racism and xenophobia—manifested in policies like the white-male-only citizenship act of 1790 or the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882—but the current immigrant mass detention system brought on by crimmigration is nothing like we have seen before.

One reason for this move to mass detention is that there are a multitude of entities making money off the industry. Private detention companies like GEO Group and CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America/CCA) treat humans confined in their detention centers as commodities. Profiting from lucrative government contracts, they make money backward and forward: first, from contracts to hold 71% of the country's immigrant detainees and then from having detainees do the cen-

**By NAOMI ISHISAKA**

The Seattle Times

*Naomi Ishisaka (nishisaka@seattletimes.com) is a columnist for the Seattle Times.*



ter's basic labor for \$1 a day. Many rural towns and counties vie fiercely for detention centers for the jobs and taxes they bring.

While much is made about Seattle and other cities' sanctuary policies, our neighbor to the south, Tacoma, is home to the Northwest Detention Center, which ICE has now renamed the Northwest ICE Processing Center. One of the GEO Group's private detention centers, the facility holds up to 1,575 immigrants and was the subject of a detainee hunger strike last year as well as a state lawsuit over the detention center wages.

Maru Mora-Villalpando is an undocumented activist with the group La Resistencia, which supports the efforts of those detained at the center for better conditions and to stop deportations. She and La Resistencia want to see the detention center shut down and are joined by 140 organizations and counting who support that effort.

Today's immigration detention system is just an extension of the overall criminal justice system, Mora-Villalpando said. "Once we understand that the prison system is already a system of oppression against people of color, then you'll understand why (immigration) was criminalized. Because it was really easy then to excuse having people detained."

It's long past time to challenge our policymakers about our crimmigration system and shift our thinking as a society. Whose interests does it serve to detain hundreds of thousands of people at a financial price tag of \$3 billion a year and incalculable human cost? How does it increase public safety? How does it align with a vision of a United States where immigrants are welcome? What would you do if your family was fleeing war or poverty?

What Garcia Hernandez calls the "invisible giant" of immigrant detention that grew to historic levels under President Barack Obama, is now fueled by the Trump and Fox News rhetoric of dangerous and criminal "illegal aliens" as well as policies crafted by white nationalist-linked Stephen Miller.

But with public attention and calls for change, Garcia Hernandez said, this does not have to be our future. "We've gone from almost no immigration prisoners to almost half a million immigration prisoners (a year)," he said. "If we can do that in my lifetime, I'm hopeful that we can undo that in my lifetime."

# Ha`anen gupot

**S**elebrasion Thanksgiving tutuhun ha`anen gupot siha guine. Ti matmanyu` dumandan kantan Christmas des-de chagchag oga` an.

Sumen namagof i preparasion para i kompleaňus Niňo Jesus gi halum dos semana imedia.

Meskla asunto-ta siha gi hinanau este na sakan. Lau sin inbatgu ta umakilu` osta fietmiente pot trabiha anaku` i karera estake para tafan mattu guatu gi kilu` us gi un` chagu` hogsu`.

‘Nai ti nahuň \$65 miyon pesus para operasion gobietnu haf na para in` atotga gastu ni tai fondu tat kumu suetdun 84 nuebu na empleau? Haf na para in` fegsi i taxpayers ni despetdisiun politikan miyu?

Dispues, esta malagnus gi gasetta na kase 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble. Haf mohon ya ti siha inna` e ni suetdun i 84 na empleau? Chatdisision!

## Motibu

‘Nai 15-mit na empleau suetdun popble ma-ususune naturat na u fan mamakilu sa` inipus tinanahuň monedan familia para disiente na mantension. Guaha planu para umasatba este na sapet?

Kase pot maresisibe pa`gu \$99,500 gi sakan na ti mana` presisu adelantun linala` pumalu gi seňgsuň siha. Haf mohon? Satbasion i taya` aksion ginen hamyu umadelanta ha`anen i tau-tau siha ni in` represesenta?

## Minesňgun

Maseha grasisou na inana`en felisitasion gi entre tautau-ta siha libianu un` siente na didog chinatsagan niha. Ti mahňau na la-mayot patte pot suetdun popble sumasapet i los probes.

Kase guaha 15-mit na empleau mangaige guine na estau. I suetdun popble ni magana pa`gu entalu` \$15-mit esta \$42-mit gi sakan. Mas inatisa probleman halum guma` `nai sige hulu` presiun nesessidat siha mientras i suetdu sumaga gi mismu lugat.

Komprendiyun na i asuntu ha nesessita homlu` na sisteman ekonomia. Guaha mapetsisige guine na patte? Para u kahulu` i suetdu debi i bandan bisnis u guaha adelantu para u prebeniye fondu yan cho`chu`.

Sin este gatdun i suetdu gi taimanu maresisibe na tiempu. Makat para i 15-mit na familia ni rumesisibe suetdun popble pa`gu.

# Democrats shouldn't blame Latin

**I**f the impeachment effort isn't taking the nation by storm, the Democrats have an answer—blame it on Latin. The use of a Latin term, *quid pro quo*, is now thought to be a damper on the impeachment cause because it sounds complex and technical.

Latin is one of the great legacies of the Roman Empire, influencing languages across Europe and giving us scientific, medical and legal terms that heretofore had been thought perfectly fitting. That was before Democrats felt they needed a more emotive phrase to characterize President Donald Trump's conduct in the Ukraine controversy, and especially one that denotes a more grave offense.

Democratic Rep. Jim Himes, from Connecticut, made the case on “Meet the Press”: “When you’re trying to persuade the American people of something that is really pretty simple, which is that the president acted criminally and extorted, in the way a mob boss would extort somebody, a vulnerable foreign country, it’s probably best not to use Latin words to explain it.”

There’s a lot to unpack here. The first problem is that Ukraine is not nearly as simple, or as dramatic, as Democrats first hoped. It doesn’t have something memorable and inherently attention-grabbing at its heart, like the Watergate break-in or the Clinton-

## Diberas

Hu akanteha haf na taya` fotmat na pinetsige para u fan mayuda i empleau siha. Taimanu na kada membron lehislatura esta ha resisibe \$99,500 gi sakan. Kau pot masoda` ginefsagan niha na matotbus linala` pumalu gi un` banda?

Lastima i inaňigohu para umadelanta kualidat linala` familia ni siha mismu rumepresenta pa`gu. Haf na eskusu guaha gi papa` kutbatan miyu na ti in` li`e nesessidat 15-mit na empleau? Haf ti u fan silensi gi lugat niha diariu!

## Lastima

Dispues de saludu sige ham kumentus yan un` prohimu ni nuebu ni malagnus ginen i presu dispues de dies aňus.

Kase i mas umaminasa i prohimu i tumaigueňa `nai manhoben i tres lalahiňa. Matuňgu` na tatague` lau sumen taya` relasion niha.

Mauleg sa` adumididi` sige ha pasensiaye i asuntu pot para u ketuňgu` i famaguoňa siha. Mampus nina` lastima pot diskuiduňa.

Enfin, hanana` e animu para u establese mauleg na inatuňgu` gi entre siha kumu familia. Magof sa` ti maliňgu respetun i famaguon giya guia. Repasa!

## Suette

Hu facha` e premihu pa`gu monhayan ha potgue kuattru na manog fresku ni kmine`ňa gi fina` halum tanu`. Hu atotga mamaisan katdoghu pot tai achaigua sabot katdun fresku. Hana` eyu` lokue` dididi tiau para kelaguen-hu. Paire finatoghu!

Sige dispues hasaňgan destrosiun amot deris gi tasin sanhalum. Kontodu kuraleňg (sagan neňkanu` guihan) manpininu`.

Este na destrosiun sumugun i guihan sanhalum para i lachagu` na fina` achi` gi filon rubentason. Lau haf tachogue` an hagas man-aguaguat tautau pot usun amot deris gi tasi.

## Kinimiti

Kase esta guaha 46 aňus desde ke maňge`yu` guine na pahina gi finu` Chamorro. Hu disidi pumega lapes-hu papa` gi finapu` este na sakan pot para baina` fonhayan tumuge` lepbloghu gi finu` Chamorro para usun i manatatte.

Lewinsky affair. It involved a pressure campaign on the Ukrainians that—once examined closely—was complicated, ambiguous and highly contested within the administration. No matter what word is applied to it—even the plainest, non-Latin English word—this isn’t going to change.

Another problem is that it wasn’t criminal. Impeachment doesn’t require a crime, but it helps. The best card that Republicans had against Bill Clinton in their impeachment push in the 1990s was that he had flagrantly violated the law by perjuring himself repeatedly. Democrats wish they had Trump on similar violations. In their absence, they are attempting to create the impression of rank criminality, via metaphor.

This is why they want to shift to the terms “extortion” or “bribery”—and throw in references to mob bosses.

It can’t be that squeezing a foreign power is a criminal act, though, or every American president would be guilty of crimes in the course of the horse-trading of routine statecraft.

What makes the Ukraine matter different, and blameworthy, is that he wanted an investigation that touched on Joe and Hunter Biden. This was improper because it involved a mingling of presidential powers and U.S. resources with a goal that was,

# T.O.A.S.T.: Teaching Old Age Skepticism New Tricks

## Home School for Skeptics Five Births Via Anesthetics

Skepticism is a good thing to which we all may cling intelligence it may well bring your brain functions will sing become a queen or a king of everything and nothing prying logically paralleling all that is told all that is telling find some kindness and loving keep on moving and grooving pathways and doors opening keep on grounding, proving, establishing a solid life base stay in the reality rat race.

Being a seven-minute sonnet rap on my 70th birthday

a life worth living ever since then C section number three for Mommy then two more my younger sisters two older brothers were the others her Chinese anesthesiologist Dr. Lu

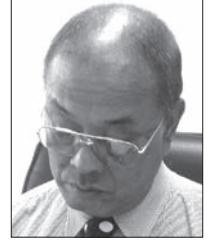
said “we’ll put a zipper in there if you are not all through” the adults laughed over coffee at the kitchen table us kids wondered was this able to be done days later us skeptics asked Mom for fun she showed us her scar and that was that this one took longer than seven minutes but that’s what I thought when I did begin it looking up the correct spelling of anesthesia took away time and a small part of the fun I wanted words spelled correctly to please ya a true birth tale about Mom the cesarean queen seven minutes time two equals fourteen that is the time it took to write it, about my birth and after and how I came out a Chinese doctor saving my mother using anesthetics for five healthy births, on the scene I remember the zipper tale on every 09/14.

## Keeping Mind and Memories Open

*Inspired by Passage 49 of the Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu, 6th century B.C. Chinese philosopher*

I am an aging person who is slowly losing my mind

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

Debi bai petsige sin ditension mientras sisiňayu` man-hassu yan maňge` klaru na presentasion.

## Palabra

Ilegňa un` kantot “...namagof siňienten ‘nuchu’ buena.” Haf “nuchu?” Na ti “noche” i propiu palabra? Komprendiyun lau tat mas ke dinanche na usun finu` Chamorro. Korihe kosake umatuňgu` ni famaguon i dinanche na liňguahen niha!

## Pase`ando

Lumiiliku` ŋaihonyu` hu aliligau hagas atuňgo`hu pot para bai`n chaleg. ‘Nai umasoda` ham in` hala gitalan mame ya sige ham kumanta hagas sunidun tano`ta.

Huli`e na mesgu` lagu` mataňa `nai ha kanta un` tunada ni sessu si nanaňa ha kanta antes. Lau ti pumara kumanta maseha tutuhu` lago`ňa. Agradesimientu pot tod i sakrifisiu` i amku`.

Dispues humame kumanta “Try To Remember”, un` sunidu pot man-mames memorias siha gi mes Septiembre. Estaugue` na mes tutuhun matcha para ha`anen gupot siha.

## Chagchag

Diariu gi oran `las tres gi chatagmag manmata-yu`. Hu tutuhun ha`anihu gi tinayuyot dispues hu rikonose i gasetta gi internet.

Hu ayeg haf mas impottate na estoria. Diariu na fina`pus gi inatan asunto-ta siha gi ridondun linahyan. Namagof`an huli`e maňaunau tau-tau gi asuntun niha. Ha sede mas inakomprende gi entalu` unu yan todu!

**By RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

largely, personal and political in nature.

Once we are talking about an improper use of lawful powers, then things are less lurid and more complicated than a mafia-land crime. And once you factor in that the Ukrainians ultimately got their funding without investigating anyone or announcing an investigation into anyone, the picture is even less clear.

Impeachment and removal of a president requires a national consensus to get the two-thirds vote to convict in the Senate. This is why the Democrats need more than wrong and troubling and worthy of congressional investigation, a standard they’ve amply met; they need shocking to the conscience, which they aren’t going to meet on anything like the current universe of facts.

This is the political reality—in English, Latin or any other language.

## LITERARY NOOK

**By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*

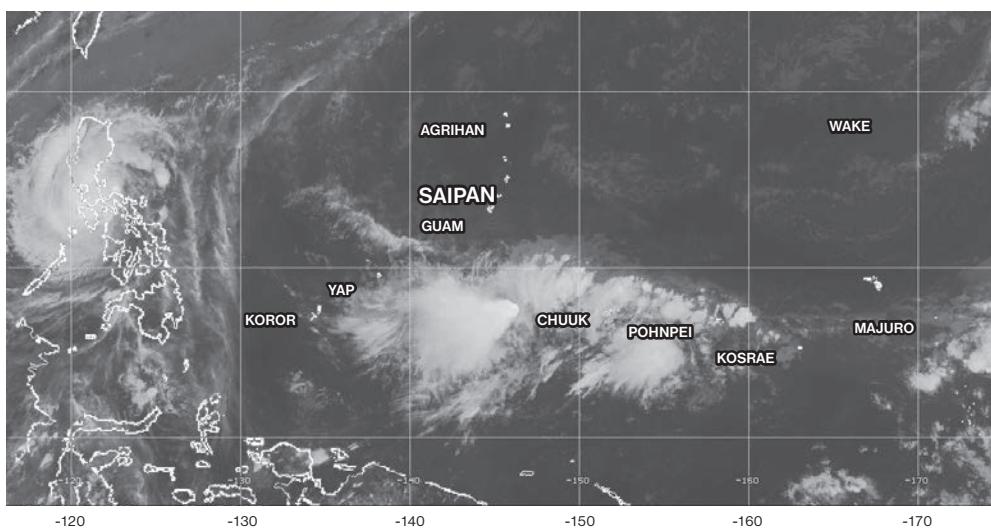
the collective mind of humanity is becoming mine  
the salt sorrow joy vinegar acidity honey and wine  
to those who have been kind to me I am kind  
with those who treated me unfairly I’m fine  
kindness gives me peace. I make a peace sign.  
those who trusted and love me I trust and love  
and those who did not trust me I still trust  
my mind is filled with both diamonds and rust  
rust is formed by oxidation. I am still breathing.  
Fixed opinions and belief systems halt the flow  
some things I don’t want as my brain begins to go  
I take in everything I can as I keep on wandering the  
fragility of the world and its people keep me pondering.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°
76°	87°	76°	87°	76°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 8:13 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A circulation was located south of the Marianas this morning. It will move westward the next few days. Satellite imagery shows all of the shower activity associated with this weather feature remaining south of 10N. Models agree on this trend and only isolated showers are expected today. Models are also indicating that relatively dry weather will persist through the forecast with 700 mb relative humidity will be well below 50 percent through Saturday. The circulation will cause a slight increase in the pressure gradient which will cause winds to become breezy with wind speeds of between 20 to 25 mph during the day Wednesday. It appears that the dry season is here with increased trade-winds and a dry atmosphere and only isolated showers at best. To highlight the low rainfall potential...model rainfall accumulations through next Sunday are less than an inch and some models the accumulation is at or below a half of an inch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Sunny	73°	/	61°
Beijing	Sunny	36°	/	19°
Hong Kong	Windy	64°	/	57°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	72°
London	Partly Cloudy	43°	/	34°
Los Angeles	Showers	62°	/	54°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88°	/	77°
Melbourne	Windy	72°	/	54°
Miami	Showers	83°	/	52°
New York	Mixed	44°	/	36°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	54°	/	43°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39°	/	28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48°	/	27°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	59°	/	45°
Salem	Sunny	62°	/	37°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	56°	/	49°
Seoul	Sunny	32°	/	14°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54°	/	41°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	50°	/	36°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
6:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.09
2:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
9:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.86
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:32 PM	-
Thursday	-	12:27 AM	1:09 PM
Friday	-	1:13 AM	1:45 PM
Saturday	-	2:00 AM	2:20 PM
Monday	-	2:47 AM	2:57 PM

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA105 6:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				UA104 4:45pm 5:26pm 2, 4, 6			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
SKY811 10:15am 3:00pm Daily				SKY816 4:35pm 7:30pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			
				SKY816 5:05pm 8:00pm 6			
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451 3:20am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
				7C3452 10:05pm 2:30am+1 3			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 2:05am 6:05am Daily				OZ6233 8:00am 1:20pm 2, 4, 6			
OZ626 2:10am 6:05am 1				OZ623 8:55am 2:30pm 1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:25am 3, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 4, 5, 6				TW309 11:10am 4:25pm Daily			
7C3403 4:35am 8:35am Daily				OZ625 7:30pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ6243 3:20pm 7:10pm 2, 4, 6				TW307 7:45pm 1:05am+1 Daily			
OZ624 3:50pm 7:40pm 1, 3, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
TW310 5:25pm 10:15pm Daily							
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>				<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 4, 7							

# Business

## THE TSUBAKI TOWER

# More than 700 applicants attend 1st job fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tsubaki Tower, owned by PHR Ken Micronesia, Inc. and Premier Hotel Group, hosted its first of two pre-opening job fairs at the Hotel Nikko Guam on Sat., Nov. 16, as it prepares for its grand opening on April 25, 2020.

**TUMON, Guam**—More than a thousand residents have applied in-person and online for management and line staff positions posted by The Tsubaki Tower, Guam's newest luxury resort in Tumon. The Tsubaki Tower, owned by PHR Ken Micronesia, Inc. and Premier Hotel Group, hosted its first of two pre-opening job fairs at the Hotel Nikko Guam on Sat., Nov. 16, as it prepares for its grand opening on April 25, 2020.

Applicants arrived early to secure their place in line a few hours before the doors opened. More than 700 residents attended the job fair and learned more about the resort's concept, design and customer service standards during a 10-minute presentation before they filled out applications and met with managers of each of the resort's departments. Applicants were treated to a virtual tour of the resort's room categories, food

and beverage outlets, wedding services, and amenities.

"We were very excited to share the Tsubaki concept with more than 700 attendees during our first job fair. As we prepare for our April 25 grand opening, we are looking for a strong team that can help us deliver a high level of service and authentic Guam experiences that our guests will expect," said Ken Yanagisawa, The Tsubaki Tower general manager. "We are proud to be able to provide 340 new jobs for Guam and thank everyone who attended the job fair and applied online."

The Tsubaki Tower aims to fill 340 positions before its grand opening to provide a service standard that meets the needs of the 340 all-oceanfront rooms and suites hotel. The Tsubaki Tower announced in October that online room reservations were open for the April 25 grand



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tsubaki Tower aims to fill 340 positions before its grand opening to provide a service standard that meets the needs of the 340 all-oceanfront rooms and suites hotel.

opening weekend and beyond.

More than a thousand applications were received for management and line staff positions for all hotel departments—Rooms, Food and Beverage (two restaurants, three bars, a lobby lounge, deli, takeout cafe, 24-hour in-room dining, banquets, and catering), Administration, Human Resources, Sales, Engineering, Accounting, and Facilities. Interested applicants can request and submit applications online by sending an e-mail to [HR@thetsubakitower.com](mailto:HR@thetsubakitower.com). The Tsubaki Tower will be hosting a second job fair before its grand opening.

The Tsubaki Tower is Guam's newest luxury hotel experience. The Tsubaki Tower's mission is to be an authentic ambassador of Guam's culture, natural beauty and unique history. Located along

the shores of stunning Gun Beach, the 27-story resort will offer guests panoramic views of Guam's famous sunsets and the warm blues of the Pacific Ocean. The resort will be nestled in the northern part of Tumon Bay and feature 340 breathtaking oceanfront rooms and suites, all within walking distance of Guam's most beautiful white-sand beaches and a world-class marine preserve. The hotel features two types of dining, three types of bars, a lobby lounge, deli, club lounge, swimming pools, meeting facilities, garden plaza, multifunction room and a chapel in the sky. The new high-end resort will serve as a landmark for local culture and modern luxury and will begin offering guests unique Guam experiences beginning in April 2020. For further information about The Tsubaki

Tower visit <https://thetsubakitower.premierhotel-group.com/guam/> or engage with them on Instagram and Facebook (@thetsubakitower).

Premier Hotel Group has been managing hotels for more than 15 years. PHG is a member of Ken Corporation Group, a pioneer in the high-end real estate rental market in metropolitan areas. Currently, PHG owns and operates a total of 32 hotels—23 properties throughout major cities in Japan, such as Tokyo, Osaka and Okinawa, and nine hotels in Guam, Saipan, and the U.S. in collaboration with several international hotel chains. For more information, visit Premier Hotel Group's website at [premierhotel-group.com/eng/](http://premierhotel-group.com/eng/).

Additional photos can be found in The Tsubaki Tower's Job Fair Press Kit: <http://bit.ly/TTTJobFair>. (PR)

## For banks, data on your spending habits could be a gold mine

**NEW YORK** (AP)—There's a powerful new player watching what you buy so it can tailor product offerings for you: the bank behind your credit or debit card.

For years, Google and Facebook have been showing ads based on your online behavior. Retailers from Amazon to Walgreens also regularly suction up your transaction history to steer future spending and hold your loyalty.

Now banks, too, want to turn data they already have on your spending habits into extra revenue by identifying likely customers for retailers. Banks are increasingly aware that they could be sitting on a gold mine of information that can be used to predict—or sway—where you spend. Historically, such data has been used mostly for fraud protection.

Suppose you were to treat yourself to lunch on Cyber Monday, the busiest online

shopping day of the year. If you order ahead at Chipotle—paying, of course, with your credit card—you might soon find your bank dangling 10% off lunch at Little Caesars. The bank would earn fees from the pizza joint, both for showing the offer and processing the payment.

Wells Fargo began customizing retail offers for individual customers on Nov. 21, joining Chase, Bank of America, PNC, SunTrust and a slew of smaller banks.

Unlike Google or Facebook, which try to infer what you're interested in buying based on your searches, web visits or likes, "banks have the secret weapon in that they actually know what we spend money on," said Silvio Tavares of the trade group CardLinx Association, whose members help broker purchase-related offers. "It's a better predictor of what we're going to spend on."

In its ruling, a WTO compliance panel found that the EU had not taken sufficient steps to end harm to Boeing, the major rival to Europe's Airbus. The EU is expected to appeal, though the United States is on the cusp of preventing the WTO's ap-

peals court—the Appellate Body—from ruling on any new appeals.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Monday welcomed the WTO ruling.

"Strong action is needed to convince the EU that its interests lie in eliminating these market-distorting subsidies now and in the future, so that our industries can compete on a level playing field," Lighthizer said in a statement.

Responding to Monday's ruling, the EU's executive commission faulted the panel for making a "number of serious legal errors in its assessment of EU compliance," and

said its recommended ways of compliance would be "very problematic for a larger part of the WTO membership."

"The European Commission will decide on its course of action in light of this assessment, including the possibility of bringing an appeal in order to have these legal errors corrected," it said in a statement.

The commission also alluded to a decision expected next year by a WTO arbitrator in a case of illegal U.S. government support for Chicago-based Boeing, which could give the EU authorization to slap tariffs on U.S. goods.

The Airbus case centers on so-called launch aid from the EU that WTO judges ruled had impeded sales for aircraft from Boeing in the twin-aisle and very large aircraft markets.

In May last year, the Appellate Body agreed that the EU and four of its member states—Britain, France, Germany and Spain—had failed to abide by an earlier compliance panel ruling. The EU insisted in subsequent arguments that the subsidies had been lifted, and that proper steps were taken to remove the subsidies' harmful impact on Boeing.



## LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
27,783.04  
-268.37  
-.96%

**S&P**  
3,113.87  
-27.11  
-0.86%

**NASDAQ**  
8,567.99  
-97.48  
-1.12%

In U.S. dollar terms

## EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	<b>1.46</b>	Hong Kong Dollar	<b>7.83</b>	Russian Ruble	<b>64.10</b>
British Pound	<b>0.77</b>	Indian Rupee	<b>71.56</b>	Singapore Dollar	<b>1.36</b>
Canadian Dollar	<b>1.33</b>	Japanese Yen	<b>109.20</b>	South Korean Won	<b>1186.55</b>
Chinese Yuan	<b>7.04</b>	Malaysian Ringgit	<b>4.17</b>	Swiss Franc	<b>0.99</b>
Euro	<b>0.90</b>	New Zealand Dollar	<b>1.54</b>	Taiwan Dollar	<b>30.50</b>
		Philippine Peso	<b>51.06</b>	Thailand Baht	<b>30.28</b>

# Nation

## Congress pushes ahead on Trump impeachment with nation split

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The House is plunging into a landmark impeachment week, with Democrats who once hoped to sway Republicans now facing the prospect of an ever-hardening partisan split over the question of removing President Donald Trump from office.

Lawmakers were getting their first look at the House Intelligence Committee's impeachment report Monday night behind closed doors, and Chairman Adam Schiff said on MSNBC that it will be released Tuesday. The findings are expected to forcefully make the Democrats' case that Trump engaged in what Schiff calls impeachable "wrongdoing and misconduct" in pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden while withholding military aid to the ally.

For Republicans offering an early rebuttal ahead of the report's public release, the proceedings are simply a "hoax," with Trump insisting he did nothing wrong and his GOP allies in line behind him. Trump tweeted his daily complaints about it all and then added a suggestive, if impractical, question: "Can we go to



President Donald Trump walks to Marine One after speaking with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House before departing, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Supreme Court to stop?"

With the Judiciary Committee set to launch its first hearing Wednesday, the impeachment proceedings are

presenting a historic test of political judgment in a case that is dividing Congress and the country.

Departing for a NATO meeting in London, Trump criticized the House for pushing forward Monday with proceedings while he was

heading overseas, a breach of political decorum that traditionally leaves partisan differences at the water's edge.

He predicted Republicans would actually benefit from the entire impeachment effort against him, though "it's a disgrace for our country."

For the Democrats, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi faces a critical moment of her leadership as she steers the process ahead after resisting the impeachment inquiry through the summer, warning it was too divisive for the country and required bipartisan support.

## Flood at famed Arizona waterfalls sends tourists scrambling; all safe

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.** (AP)—A popular tourist spot deep in a gorge off the Grand Canyon known for its blue-green waterfalls will make repairs after heavy flooding over the Thanksgiving break sent tourists scrambling to higher ground.

No one was injured in the flooding on the Havasupai reservation, and the water receded within hours. The extent of the damage is unknown. The tribe soon plans to send crews to survey the 10-mile (16-kilometer) trail and the campground, which closed for the season this week.

The area is prone to flooding and its iconic waterfalls turn chocolate brown during heavy rainfall. About 170 people were at the campground when water rushed through early Friday, raising the creek that flows through it by about 1.5 feet (half a meter), tourists said.

A wintry storm moving east from California brought snow and rain to Arizona, even highly unusual tornado warnings to Phoenix. Two children died, and

one is missing after floodwaters swept away a vehicle in central Arizona over the weekend.

On the Havasupai reservation, Mandy Augustin and her husband were asleep in a tent when the sound of the rain woke up her brother, who reached under his hammock and felt water.

They and her sister-in-law pulled a tarp off a picnic table and covered themselves, hunkering down for a few hours and watching the flow in the glow of headlamps. They used a rock to gauge whether the water was rising and picked out a tree to climb if needed, she said.

Augustin, 30, of Marshfield, Wisconsin, said they saw groups of campers surrounded by water, even one tent that was floating with mud rushing over the sides as people slept inside. Campers and tribal members worked to warn people and get them to higher ground.

"Definitely people rallied together and helped each other," Augustin said. "It was really nice to see people doing that."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### US citizen raised in San Diego faces new terrorism charges

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—A U.S. citizen on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List has been charged with additional crimes involving ties to Somalia's al-Shabaab rebel group, according to a federal indictment unsealed Monday. Jehad Serwan Mostafa, 37, a former San Diego resident, was indicted on similar charges in 2009.

Without providing specifics, the new counts accuse him of having key roles in al-Shabaab activities and providing material support from 2008 to 2017. The FBI did say it learned this year that he is a leader in al-Shabaab's "explosives department." "Today, Mostafa is believed to be the highest-ranking United States citizen fighting overseas for a terrorist organization," said Scott Brunner, the agent in charge of the FBI office in San Diego. The group claimed responsibility for two Sept. 30 attacks on U.S. and European military targets in Somalia, including one by an estimated 25 fighters who were killed when

they tried to storm the Beldogle military airstrip, which hosts Somali and U.S. forces. Mostafa was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and raised in San Diego, where authorities say he has relatives. He graduated from University of California, San Diego in 2005 and—according to an FBI poster offering a \$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest—joined al-Shabaab around 2006.

#### Jimmy Carter hospitalized for urinary tract infection

**AMERICUS, Ga.** (AP)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was admitted to a south Georgia hospital over the weekend for treatment of a urinary tract infection, a spokeswoman said Monday. Deanna Congile, a spokeswoman for The Carter Center, said in a statement that the 95-year-old former president was admitted to Phoebe Sumter Medical Center in Americus over the weekend. "He is feeling better and looks forward to returning home soon. We will issue a statement when he is released for further rest and recovery at

home," she added. Carter has overcome several health challenges in recent years. He was diagnosed with melanoma in 2015, announcing that the cancer had spread to other parts of his body. After partial removal of his liver, treatment for brain lesions, radiation and immunotherapy, he said he was cancer-free. A fall last spring required him to get hip replacement surgery. Then on Oct. 6, he hit his head in another fall and received 14 stitches, but still traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to help build a Habitat for Humanity home shortly thereafter. He fractured his pelvis in another fall later that month and was briefly hospitalized. Last Wednesday, Carter was released from Emory University Hospital in Atlanta after recovering from surgery to relieve pressure on his brain caused by bleeding from a fall.

#### Greta Thunberg's North Dakota photo is at national library

**BISMARCK, N.D.** (AP)—A photo of Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg at a Native American reservation

Speaking to reporters at the international climate conference in Madrid, Pelosi declined to engage with impeachment questions. "When we travel abroad, we don't talk about the president in a negative way," she said. "We save that for home."

Possible grounds for impeachment are focused on whether Trump abused his office as he pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in a July 25 phone call to launch investigations into Trump's political rivals. At the time, Trump was withholding \$400 million in military aid, jeopardizing key support as Ukraine faced an aggressive Russia at its border.

The report, which the Intelligence panel will vote on Tuesday, also is expected to include evidence the Democrats say suggests obstruction of Congress, based on Trump's instructions for his administration to defy subpoenas for documents and testimony.

The next step comes when the Judiciary Committee gavels open its own hearing with legal experts to assess the findings and consider potential articles of impeachment ahead of a possible vote by the full House by Christmas. That would presumably send it to the Senate for a trial in January.

in North Dakota has been archived at the Library of Congress in Washington. Shane Balkowitsch, who took the photo, preserved the image on a glass plate and titled it "Standing For Us All." Balkowitsch told the Bismarck Tribune that it's his "most important work to date." The photo shows 16-year-old Thunberg looking into the distance during a visit to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. It was preserved using a method known as "wet plate collodion," which involves wetting glass with various chemicals before inserting the plate into a camera and developing the photo. "I wanted to give nature its due respect on the plate," Balkowitsch noted. The photographer said the image "wasn't supposed to happen," but it's the one that Thunberg chose to share with the world. Thunberg posted it on Twitter when she left North America on Nov. 13. Balkowitsch had heard Thunberg would be at the reservation and made plans to meet her there, since she wasn't able to come to his studio. He recalled being told he only had 15 minutes.

# Asia

## Powerful typhoon rips off roofs, floods parts of PH

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### North Korea says it's up to US to choose 'Christmas gift'

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea has repeated claims that the Trump administration is running out of time to salvage nuclear negotiations and says it's entirely up to the United States to choose what "Christmas gift" it gets from the North. The statement by a senior diplomat on Tuesday came as North Korea continues to dial up pressure on Washington and Seoul ahead of leader Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal. Negotiations have faltered since a February summit between Kim and President Donald Trump broke down after the U.S. rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

#### HK leader says new US law, violence will harm economy

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam says that clashes between protesters and police last weekend have dampened her hopes that a recent lull in the violence would allow the economy to recover. Lam announced Tuesday that the government would soon launch a fourth round of measures to support business, protect jobs and offer economic relief. She said a new U.S. law to defend human rights in Hong Kong is an interference in the city's affairs that will undermine confidence and create an uncertain business environment. President Donald Trump signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act into law last week. It requires an annual review of a favorable trading status that the U.S. grants to the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

#### Malaysia's ex-leader Najib begins defense in graft trial

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has started his defense in his first corruption trial linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that contributed to his election loss last year. Najib is defending himself against seven charges of abuse of power, breach of trust and money laundering relating to

42 million ringgit (\$10.1 million) that allegedly went into his bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB fund. The high court judge last month said Najib wielded "overarching authority and power" and took actions for personal gains. Najib on the stand Tuesday outlined 1MDB's formation and the role of fugitive financier Low Taek Jho, who U.S. investigators say was the mastermind behind the massive scandal that is being probed in several countries.

#### Sri Lanka's new president ends session of Parliament

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—Sri Lanka's new president has ended the parliamentary session and has set the opening of a new one for Jan. 3. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has issued an order to end the session effective at midnight Monday. Rajapaksa won the Nov. 16 presidential election comfortably but doesn't have a majority in the 225-member Parliament. Ending the session will give him freedom to govern without opposition from lawmakers. He could issue another order extending Parliament's recess for two more months past Jan. 3. That would lead into March, which is the only time the president can legally dissolve Parliament and call an election.

#### Smoke grenade explodes in Indonesia park, injures 2 soldiers

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Police say an explosion from a smoke grenade near the presidential palace in Indonesia's capital has injured two soldiers. Jakarta Police Chief Gatot Eddy Pramono said the blast occurred Tuesday at the National Monument park when the two soldiers who were doing a routine exercise found a smoke grenade lying on the ground and exploded when they tried to pick it up. Pramono said the two injured soldiers were being hospitalized but in stable condition. He said police are investigating the blast, including the possibility it accidentally fell as thousands of police and soldiers were deployed Monday to secure a big rally held by tens of thousands conservative Muslims near the park. National Monument park, known as Monas, is just across the presidential palace and several government offices.

#### MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—A powerful typhoon was blowing across the Philippines on Tuesday after slamming ashore overnight in an eastern province, damaging houses and an airport and knocking out power after tens of thousands of people fled for safer ground.

Typhoon Kammuri blew into Gubat town in Sorsogon province before midnight then barreled westward through Quezon province Tuesday morning, ripping off roofs, knocking out power and flooding low-lying villages. It had maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers (96 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 235 kph (146 miles) as it headed to-

ward a cluster of island provinces and coastal regions lying south of Manila.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries.

Kammuri's pounding rain and wind damaged the airport in Legazpi city in Albay province, collapsing a portion of its ceiling, scattering chairs at the arrival and departure areas and shattering glass panes. Parts of the city were flooded, according to local news reports.

Manila's international airport was closing during the storm's peak, expected at midday to afternoon in the capital region, before the typhoon blows out to sea later in the day.

Officials warned of storm

surges and prolonged heavy rain. More than 100,000 residents evacuated before the typhoon made landfall, abandoning homes in coastal and low-lying areas prone to flash floods and landslides, the Office of Civil Defense said.

The coast guard suspended sea travel in the northeast, stranding more than 6,000 travelers along with thousands of cargo ships and smaller watercraft in the archipelago nation.

The Philippines canceled a tennis match in the Southeast Asian Games after rains drenched an outdoor court. Organizers said wind surfing competitions have also been postponed and other events would be delayed if

needed for safety but there was no plan to extend the 11-day games which opened Saturday.

Albay province is home to the Mount Mayon volcano, which is famous for its near-perfect cone and has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years. Its last significant eruption was in early 2018 and prompted tens of thousands of people to evacuate nearby villages.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year and has frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, making the archipelago of more than 100 million people one of the world's most disaster-prone nations.



Residents reinforce their house as they prepare for a coming typhoon in Legazpi, Albay province, southeast of Manila, Philippines on Monday Dec. 2, 2019.

## Indians demand justice after woman gang raped and killed

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Hundreds of people gathered in New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and other Indian cities on Monday to demand justice in the case of a veterinarian who was gang-raped and killed last week.

The protesters demanded a fast-track investigation of the case and stringent laws for the safety of women in India.

"We are not safe anymore in India. We are scared to move out of our homes," said Sejal Kumar, a college student from New Delhi.

The burned body of the 27-year-old woman was found Thursday morning by a pass-

er-by in an underpass in the southern city of Hyderabad after she went missing the previous night.

Police said four suspects have been taken into custody.

Violent crimes against women have been in the spotlight in India since 2012, when the fatal gang rape of a young woman aboard a moving bus in New Delhi prompted hundreds of thousands to take to the streets to demand stricter laws against rape.

The attack spurred quick action on legislation that doubled prison terms for rapists to 20 years and criminalized voyeurism, stalking and

the trafficking of women. Indian lawmakers also voted to lower to 16 from 18 the age at which a person can be tried as an adult for heinous crimes.

According to the most recent available official crime records, police registered 33,658 cases of rape in India in 2017 - an average of more than 90 every day. But the real figure is believed to be far higher as many women in India don't report cases to police due to fear.

The data also show that more than 90% of cases of crimes against women are pending in city courts.

Last week's incident was also discussed in Parliament.

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said the attack had "brought shame to the entire country."

"It has hurt everyone. The accused must be given the most stringent punishment for their crime," Singh said.

Activists in India say the government has failed to control rising crimes against women.

Jyoti Badekar, a women's rights activist from Mumbai, said an inadequate number of female police staff is one of the factors contributing to the problem.

# World

## Amnesty says at least 208 killed in Iran protests, crackdown

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—At least 208 people in Iran have been killed amid protests over sharply rising gasoline prices and a subsequent crackdown by security forces, Amnesty International said Monday, as one government official acknowledged telling police to shoot demonstrators.

Iran has yet to release any nationwide statistics over the unrest that gripped the Islamic Republic beginning Nov. 15 with minimum prices for government-subsidized gasoline rising by 50%. Iran's mission to the United Nations disputed Amnesty's findings early Tuesday, though it offered no evidence to support its claim.

Iran shut down internet access amid the unrest, blocking those inside the country from sharing their videos and information, as well as limiting the outside world from knowing the scale of the protests and violence. The restoration of the internet in recent days across much of the country has seen other videos surface.

"We've seen over 200 people killed in a very swift time, in under a week," said Mansoureh Mills, an Iran researcher at Amnesty. "It's something pretty unprecedented event in the history of the human rights violations



In this Nov. 20, 2019, file photo, rainwater pools at a gas station attacked during protests over government-set gasoline prices in Tehran, Iran.

in the Islamic Republic."

While not drawing as many Iranians into the streets as those protesting the disputed 2009 presidential election, the gasoline price demonstrations rapidly turned violent faster than any previous rallies. That shows the widespread economic discontent gripping the country since May 2018, when President Donald Trump imposed crushing sanctions after unilaterally withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Since the summer, tensions across the Mideast have spiked with attacks the U.S. blames on Tehran. Iran, meanwhile, began to break the deal's centrifuges, enrichment and stockpile limitations with hopes of pressuring Europe to offer it a way to sell crude oil abroad despite Washington's sanctions.

In a statement Monday, Amnesty said there had been "dozens of deaths" in the Tehran suburb of Shahriar, likely one of the areas with the

highest toll of those killed in the unrest. Shahriar had seen heavy protests.

Amnesty offered no breakdown for the deaths elsewhere in the country, though it said "the real figure is likely to be higher." Mills said there was a "general environment of fear inside of Iran at the moment."

"The authorities have been threatening families, some have been forced to sign undertakings that they won't speak to the media," she said. "Families have been forced to



bury their loved ones at night under heavy security presence."

Authorities also have been visiting hospitals, looking for patients with gunshot wounds or other injuries from the unrest, Mills said. She alleged authorities then immediately detain those with the suspicious wounds.

Iran's U.N. mission in New York called Amnesty's findings "unsubstantiated," without elaborating.

"A number of exile groups (and media networks) have either taken credit for instigating both ordinary people to protest and riots, or have encouraged lawlessness and vandalism, or both," said Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman at the mission.

The demonstrations began after authorities raised minimum gasoline prices by 50% to 15,000 rials per liter. That's 12 cents a liter, or about 50 cents a gallon. After a monthly 60-liter quota, it costs 30,000 rials a liter. That's nearly 24 cents a liter or 90 cents a gallon. An average gallon of regular gas in the U.S. costs \$2.58 by comparison, according to AAA.

Cheap gasoline is practically considered a birthright in Iran, home to the world's fourth-largest crude oil reserves despite decades of economic woes since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Gasoline there remains among the cheapest in the world, in part to help keep costs low for its underemployed, who often drive taxis to make ends meet.

## Case against Netanyahu includes billionaire witnesses

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel's attorney general on Monday officially submitted his indictment of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on corruption charges, laying out a sweeping case in which over 300 people, including a number of well-known billionaires, could be called to testify.

But in a break for Netanyahu, the parliament's legal adviser issued an opinion that could buy the prime minister several months to seek immunity from the Knesset and delay trial. The ruling raised the likelihood the country will be heading to elections for the third time in under a year.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced on Nov. 21 that he was charging Netanyahu with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases. It is the first time in Israeli history that a sitting prime minister has been charged with a crime. On Monday, he formally submitted the indictment to the speaker of parliament.

Netanyahu denies any wrongdoing and has claimed he is the victim of an "at-

tempted coup" by overzealous police investigators and prosecutors.

The charges against Netanyahu include accepting some \$200,000 in gifts such as cigars and champagne from two billionaires, Hollywood-based Israeli movie mogul Arnon Milchan and Australian magnate James Packer.

Netanyahu is also accused of offering to push legislation that would benefit the publisher of a major newspaper in exchange for positive news coverage and promoting regulations worth hundreds of millions of dollars to a friend and telecom magnate in exchange for favorable coverage on the Israeli company's popular news site.

Mandelblit's indictment listed 333 potential witnesses, including Milchan and Packer, as well as U.S. casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson, a longtime supporter of Netanyahu, and Oracle Corp. co-founder and chairman Larry Ellison. Cosmetics heir Ron Lauder, another longtime Netanyahu associate, and British-American billionaire Len Blavatnik, also appear

on the list. It was not immediately clear what connection Ellison or Blavatnik have to the case.

Blavatnik's company, New York-based Access Industries, declined comment. An Oracle representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dozens of police officials and former Netanyahu aides, including several who agreed to turn state witness against him, are also listed. Tamir Pardo, a former chief of the Mossad spy agency, and several prominent Israeli politicians, both allies and rivals of the prime minister, appear.

In a Twitter post, Netanyahu dismissed the large list of witnesses. "When there is a real case, you don't need 333 witnesses, and when there's no real case, even 333 witnesses won't help," he said.

Israel's political system has been in disarray for the last year, in large part because of Netanyahu's legal woes.

Two elections held this year ended in deadlock, with neither Netanyahu nor his main rival, former military chief Benny Gantz, able to secure

a parliamentary majority or agree on a power-sharing rotation. If the sides cannot reach a compromise by Dec. 11, parliament will be dissolved and the country would be forced to vote again in March, its third election in less than 12 months.

One of the key sticking points in coalition negotiations has been Netanyahu's goal of receiving immunity from prosecution. Gantz has ruled out a partnership with a prime minister under indictment.

The indictment has thrown Israel into an unprecedented legal situation. Although Israeli law requires Cabinet ministers and other public officials to resign if charged with a crime, that law does not apply to sitting prime ministers. For this reason, Netanyahu is desperate to remain in office, where he is best positioned to fight the charges.

By submitting his letter to parliament's speaker, Mandelblit began an official 30-day window for Netanyahu to ask parliament for immunity. With only a minority in favor, Netanyahu's odds of success appear slim.

## Brazil's Bolsonaro under fire after Trump slaps tariffs

**SAO PAULO** (AP)—Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's U.S.-focused foreign policy efforts suffered a severe setback on Monday when his American counterpart Donald Trump pledged to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum on the South American nation.

Trump initially leveled the threat by Twitter while accusing Brazil and neighboring Argentina, governed by U.S. allies Bolsonaro and Mauricio Macri, of manipulating their currencies and hurting American farmers.

Brazil's vice president denied the accusation, but Bolsonaro, who openly admires Trump, was reticent; the far-right politician said he could call Trump "if needed."

Argentina's production and labor minister, Dante Sica, said Trump's announcement caught policymakers by surprise.

Both South American nations were among a group of U.S. allies that Trump exempted from steel and aluminum tariffs in March 2018. The American president's threat to reverse that decision and impose the metals tariffs on Argentina and Brazil is another example of his mercurial approach to trade policy.

He also called on Amer-

ica's central bank to act to prevent other countries from devaluing their currencies.

"Brazil has really discounted. If you take a look at what's happened with their currency, they've devalued their currency very substantially by 10 percent. Argentina also," Trump said shortly before departing for a NATO conference in London. He did not provide specifics on the tariffs.

The stakes are high for Bolsonaro, who has made his relationship with Trump a cornerstone of his diplomacy and is called by both friends and foes "the Trump of the tropics."

While feuding publicly with other Western leaders, including the presidents of Germany and France, Bolsonaro has made several concessions to Trump in the expectation of reaping benefits. He has exempted American tourists from visas to visit Brazil, allowed the U.S. to launch satellites from Brazil and made it easier for Brazilians to buy American wheat and ethanol.

In exchange, he received tepid U.S. support for Brazil's bid to enter the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while Argentina has received full endorsement for membership.

# Focus

**AP**  
This image released by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), shows a telescopic robot as it examines and captures the image of parts of melted fuel inside of the primary containment vessel of Unit 2 reactor at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in Okuma, northeast Japan. Japan's economy and industry ministry unveiled a draft revision Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, to its decades-long roadmap to clean up the radioactive mess at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, which was wrecked by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

# FUKUSHIMA

## melted fuel removal begins 2021, end state unknown

By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's economy and industry ministry proposed a revision Monday to its decades-long road map to clean up the radioactive mess at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, which was wrecked by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

Nearly nine years after the accident, the decommissioning of the plant, where three reactors melted, remains largely an uncertainty. The revised road map, to be formally approved later this month, lacks details on how the complex should look at the end but maintains a 30- to 40-year target to finish.

A look at some of the challenges in decommissioning the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant:

### MELTED FUEL DEBRIS

By far the toughest challenge is to remove the 800 tons of nuclear fuel in the three reactors that melted, fell from the cores and hardened at the bottom of their primary containment vessels.

In the past two years, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, has made progress in gathering details mainly from two of the three reactors. In February, a small telescopic robot sent inside Unit 2 showed that small pieces of debris can come off and be lifted out. The mile-

stone step of debris removal is scheduled to begin at Unit 2 by the end of 2021.

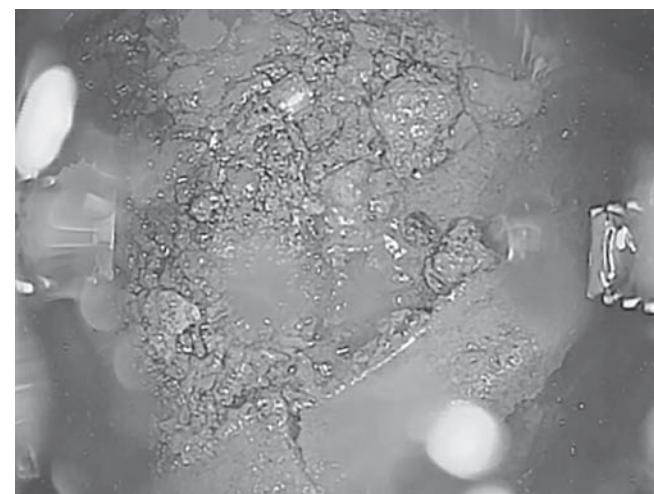
Earlier, assessment at Unit 3 was hampered by high radiation and water levels in its primary containment vessel. A robotic survey at Unit 1 was unsuccessful due to extremely high radiation levels.

Experts say a 30- to 40-year completion target for the decommissioning is too optimistic. Some have raised doubts if removing all of the melted fuel is doable and suggest an approach like Chernobyl—contain the reactors and wait until radioactivity naturally decreases.

### FUEL RODS

Together, the three melted reactors have more than 1,500 units of mostly used nuclear fuel rods still inside that must be kept cool in pools of water. They're among the highest risks at the plant because the pools are uncovered, and loss of water from structural damage or sloshing in the event of another major earthquake could cause fuel rods inside to melt and release massive radiation.

TEPCO started removing the fuel rods from the Unit 3



This image released by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), shows melted fuel taken by a telescopic robot inside of the primary containment vessel of Unit 2 reactor at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in Okuma, northeast Japan. Japan's economy and industry ministry unveiled a draft revision Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, to its decades-long roadmap to clean up the radioactive mess at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, which was wrecked by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

pool in April 2019 and aims to get all 566 removed by March 2021. Removal of the rods from Units 1 and 2 is to begin in 2023. By 2031, TEPCO also plans to remove thousands at two other units that survived the tsunami to be stored in dry casks on the compound. More than 6,300 fuel rods were in six reactor

cooling pools at the time of the accident, and only the Unit 4 pool has been emptied.

### CONTAMINATED WATER

The government and TEPCO have been unable to get rid of the more than 1 million tons of radioactive water that has been treated and stored, fear-

ing public repercussions. The utility has managed to cut the volume of water by pumping up groundwater upstream and installing a costly underground "ice wall" around the reactor buildings to keep the water from running into the area.

TEPCO says it has space to store only up to 1.37 million tons until the summer of 2022, raising speculation that the water may be released after the Tokyo Olympics next year. TEPCO and experts say the tanks get in the way of decommissioning work and they need to free up the space to build storage for debris removed and other radioactive materials. The tanks also pose risks if they were to spill out their contents in another major earthquake, tsunami or flood.

Experts say the controlled release of the water into the ocean is the only realistic option, which takes decades. For years, a government panel has been discussing methods amid opposition from fishermen and residents who fear a negative image and potential health impacts.

### RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Japan has yet to develop a plan

to dispose of the highly radioactive waste that will come out of the reactors. Under the road map, the government and TEPCO will compile a plan sometime after the first decade of debris removal ending in 2031.

Managing the waste will require new technologies to compact it and reduce its toxicity. TEPCO and the government say they plan to build a temporary storage site for the waste and debris that are removed from the reactors. But finding a site and getting public consent to store the waste would be almost impossible, raising doubts that the cleanup can be finished within 40 years.

### WORKFORCE CONCERN

Securing a workforce for the decades-long project is a challenge, especially in a country with a rapidly aging and declining population. TEPCO has announced plans to hire foreign workers for the decommissioning under Japan's new policy allowing more unskilled foreign labor, but it put it on hold following government instructions on careful planning to address concerns about language and safety.

Universities are also struggling to attract students in nuclear science, a formerly elite major that has become unpopular since the Fukushima accident.

# Good Housekeeping

**Dear Jessica:** I read your column every Sunday and learn so much. I have a plumeria growing in a clay pot, which I kept out on the deck all summer, where it thrived. How can I keep it alive as temperatures get cooler? Last year, I kept it in the kitchen, and it stayed dormant with few leaves. It has really matured since then, so any advice would be helpful.

**Dear Lisa:** Plumeria, also known as frangipani, is best known as the sweetly scented flower used for making Hawaiian leis. I remember being hit with their scent immediately upon exiting the airport in Honolulu and when walking near Waikiki Beach while vacationing there several years ago. With proper care, it's definitely possible to keep these plants alive indoors.

For best results, plumeria should be potted in a well-draining medium composed of equal parts peat moss and perlite (or a commercially prepared cactus potting mix) in a container that has drainage holes in its bottom. Place the plant where it will receive at least six hours of bright sunlight (or 15 hours of fluorescent light) daily. Water well, but only when the soil is dry; ascertain this by sticking your finger into the soil up to the second knuckle.

As a tropical plant, plumeria requires warmth and thrives best at 80 to 90 degrees, but can get by at 75 indoors during the day and no cooler than 60 overnight.



TNS  
How can you keep it alive as temperatures get cooler?

## Hawaiian lei flowers can be grown indoors with success

By JESSICA DAMIANO  
NEWSDAY

■■■

**Dear Jessica:** I have a thriving lacecap hydrangea up front of my house. I wish to control its size. How

**much can I cut, and when can I do it?**

**Dear Mary Jane:** It's too late this year to prune your hydrangea—your lacecap is

a macrophylla, so it should be pruned only at the end of summer, right after its flowers fade. After that, it forms buds that will become next year's

flowers, so pruning it now would result in diminished (or absent) blooms next year.

When you do prune it, you can thin it out by cut-

## ON GARDENING:

By NORMAN WINTER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Peanut butter for the holidays may elicit a 'that's for the birds' response, and, you would be right. But who doesn't like peanut butter cups and peanut butter swirled ice cream? Peanut butter, however, is a special treat for the birds, and if you like birds coming to your sunflower or thistle seed feeders, you will be in birdwatching ecstasy with peanut butter.

Honestly, it is far more of a rewarding spectacle than just for the holidays. At the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas we had volunteers that kept the feeders going almost year-round, skipping only a few weeks thereby reducing the invitation to those birds considered a threat to nesting birds.

The time spent at the Na-

ational Butterfly Center made me wonder if I could duplicate the setup at the Columbus Botanical Garden in Georgia. The answer was yes, it worked like a charm, and you, too, can find success. You'll find many more bird species feeding at peanut butter logs than you might expect.

Both birding areas featured a three-to-four-foot-tall thicket of pruned limbs on the outer perimeter. This served as a wonderful shelter for little birds needing a quick place to escape for protection. Both locales also installed shallow water stations. Water is mandatory and critically important to the birds.

The feeders at the National Butterfly Center were attached to a wire strung across the area while in Columbus we attached them to 8-foot tall tree-like posts. Everyone has their favorite recipes, including

straight peanut butter, crunchy and smooth. If you are like most, it is what's on sale that rules the decision. In Columbus, we chose to mix ours with cornmeal and it certainly proved to be a blend loved by the birds.

The peanut butter logs we made varied in size but were generally about 24-inches in length. Six 3/4-inch wide holes were drilled a little less than an inch deep. Fill these holes scattered around the log with your choice of peanut butter blend. The feeders in Columbus also had little 1/4-inch holes drilled below the large ones so that branch-like pieces of wood could be inserted for perches. We did not use those in Texas, but they seemed quite useful in Georgia.

While the feeders will do their part to get you, your children, or grandchildren hooked, a pair of binoculars



AP

This Pine Warbler sitting on the man-made perch approaches a nice clump of a peanut butter and cornmeal mix in Columbus, Georgia.

plants. The birds will no doubt reward your efforts and, hopefully, the children who grow-up watching and

ting some branches down to the ground and/or trim them by one-third or one-half to shorten their height, but they will just grow back. You might instead opt to divide it, or move it altogether and plant a smaller-growing variety in its place.

You can divide it now or in very early spring, when buds begin to swell, by digging it up and separating the roots into two or three pieces, then replanting each separately. The best time to relocate hydrangeas is in mid- to late-fall, after their leaves have fallen and they've entered dormancy.

■■■

**Dear Jessica:** I am a loyal reader of your column, and I have a question: When is the best time to prune decorative flowering plum trees? Will pruning now affect the spring blooms?

**Dear Kevin:** Yes, pruning now would be a mistake, as there simply isn't enough time for a wound to heal before frost sets in and the tree goes dormant. The exception to this is removing individual branches that are dead, diseased, broken or otherwise weak. That can be done at any time, and in fact should be done, if necessary in fall, to avoid damage to people and property during winter storms.

For maintenance or rejuvenative pruning, however, ornamental trees, such as plums that bloom in spring, shouldn't be pruned until after their flowers have dropped. Trees that bloom in summer should be pruned in late winter or early spring.

learning about these birds will become the environmental ecosystem heroes of the future.

# Life & Style

# Patriotism is the theme of *Christmas* at the White House

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

The Cross Hall leading into the State Dining Room is decorated during the 2019 Christmas preview at the White House, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

AP

**W**ASHINGTON (AP)—Melania Trump is celebrating American patriotism at the White House this Christmas, incorporating red and blue into the traditional holiday green, adding a timeline of American design, innovation and architecture and studding a Christmas tree with her family's annual ornament, the American flag.

The traditional gingerbread White House shares its stage with American landmarks including the Statue of Liberty and Golden Gate Bridge.

"It is with great joy that our family welcomes you to the White House

this holiday season as we celebrate the Spirit of America," President Donald Trump, the first lady and their son, Barron, say in the signed introduction to a souvenir book visitors will receive as a holiday keepsake. "We hope you enjoy our tribute to the traditions, customs and history that make our nation great."

The White House previewed the decorations for journalists on Monday before Trump and the first lady departed for London. Journalists were also admitted to the grounds of the Naval Observatory, the official residence for Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, to see the Christmas decorations there.

The East Colonnade of the White House is lined with double rows of

see-through panels etched with more than 60 examples of American design, innovation and architecture, ranging from the Woolworth Building in New York City to the Space Needle in Seattle.

A tree dedicated to Gold Star families that lost an immediate relative during military service stands at the beginning of the hallway while a tree decorated with the Trump family ornament—an American flag this year—glistens at the end of the colonnade.

East Room decorations are inspired by the U.S. flag and feature gilded eagle Christmas tree toppers, mirrored stars and red and blue ribbons. In the State Dining Room, at the opposite end of the hallway, the decor continues to showcase Ameri-

can design.

The gingerbread White House, built from 200 pounds (90 kilograms) of gingerbread and slathered in 25 pounds (11 kilograms) of royal icing and 35 pounds (16 kilograms) of chocolate, showcases the South Portico, including a staircase made using angel hair, fettuccine and spaghetti.

The popular display also features models of some of the nation's most famous landmarks, including Mount Rushmore, St. Louis' Gateway Arch, the Alamo, the Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty, along with the Golden Gate Bridge and the Space Needle.

The Blue Room is again commanded by a towering tree, a 18

½-foot Douglas fir from a Pennsylvania farm, decorated with flowers representing every state and territory. The Red Room is decorated with games, including trees made of White House playing cards bearing the president and first lady's signatures. It's meant to highlight her "Be Best" youth initiative and serve as a reminder of the kindness, respect and teamwork needed to play together.

Mrs. Trump continued her tradition of hanging wreaths on the mansion's exterior windows, 106 in all.

Late Sunday, she teased her Twitter followers with a minute-long video sneak peek of some of the decorations as she walked through the State Floor of the White House to put finishing touches on the displays.

## Dictionary.com chooses 'existential' as word of the year

By LEANNE ITALIE  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

**N**EW YORK (AP)—Climate change, gun violence, the very nature of democracy and an angsty little movie star called Forky helped propel "existential" to Dictionary.com's word of the year.

The choice reflects months of high-stakes threats and crises, real and pondered, across the news, the world and throughout 2019.

"In our data, it speaks to this sense of grappling with our survival, both literally and figuratively, that defined so much of the discourse," said John Kelly, senior research editor for the site, ahead of Monday's announcement.

The word earned top of mind awareness in sustained searches at Dictionary.com in the aftermath of wildfires and Hurricane Dorian, and mass shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, and El Paso, Texas. It also reared itself in presidential politics and pop culture, including Forky the white plastic spork who was the breakout star of "Toy Story 4."

The soiled utensil is convinced his destiny is in the trash, until he embraces his purpose as a treasured toy of kindergartener Bonnie.

"Forky underscores how this sense of grappling can also inspire us to ask big questions about who we are, about our purpose," Kelly said. The Associated Press.

Oxford Dictionaries picked "climate emergency" as its word of the year, noting usage evidence that reflects the "ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year," the company said in a statement.

Dictionary.com crunches look-up and other data to decide which word to anoint each year. The site has been picking a word of the year since 2010.

Among search spikes for "existential" were those that occurred after both Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders and 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg characterized climate change as an "existential" crisis, Kelly said.

Another spike occurred when for-

mer Vice President Joe Biden, also vying for the Democratic presidential nod, painted President Donald Trump as an "existential threat" to decency.

The word dates to 1685, deriving from Late Latin's "existentialis." Dictionary.com defines existential as "of or relating to existence" and "of, relating to, or characteristic of philosophical existentialism; concerned with the nature of human existence as determined by the individual's freely made choices."

Enter Martin Heidegger, Karl Jaspers, Gabriel Marcel and Jean-Paul Sartre, thinkers who molded and embraced existentialism, among other movements.

Climate, guns and the impeachment crisis for President Donald Trump were just a few areas that seemed to frame debate in existential

terms. So did the Hong Kong protests, the Notre Dame fire, tensions between the United States and China, and Big Tech's privacy and fake news problems.

"We started to see existential in the dialogue beginning in January and all the way through the year," said Jennifer Steeves-Kiss, Dictionary.com's chief executive officer. "This is a consistent theme that we saw in our data, but it also was leveraged across many different important questions of our time."

As for Forky, his journey from disposable utensil to handmade toy points to the concept of "agency," Kelly said, referring to the power to direct our own existences. That, he said, affords us the "opportunity to turn existential threats into existential choices."

# Billionaire faces \$58M damage award in sex harassment case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Billionaire Alki David was hit with more than \$58 million in damages after a jury found him liable for battery, sexual battery and sexual harassment against a former employee in the latest lawsuit targeting the owner of several media companies, the plaintiff's attorney said.

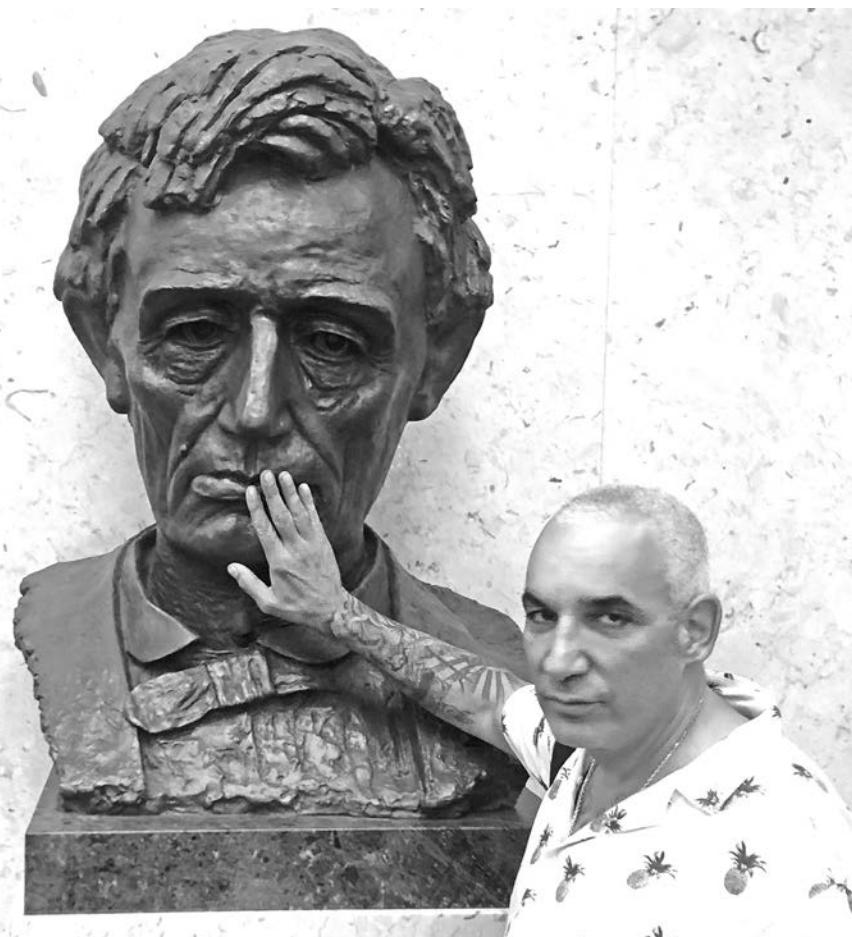
Jurors on Monday awarded \$50 million in punitive damages to Mahim Khan, a former production assistant who worked at his Los Angeles-based firms, attorney Gloria Allred said.

The same panel last week awarded \$8.25 million in compensatory damages.

Khan alleged in her lawsuit that in 2014 David thrust his pelvis into her face and simulated oral sex. Allred disclosed the name of her client in a news release.

"I hope the punitive damages verdict sends a message to Alki David to never, ever think of violating another woman's body," Khan said in a statement provided by Allred's office.

David plans an appeal. In a



This Aug. 19, 2019 photo released by Courtesy of FilmOn Networks shows Alki David, CEO of FilmOn Networks at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, while the trial with Mahim Kahn was underway in Los Angeles.

statement Monday, he denied the claim and accused the judge of blocking witnesses who would have exonerated him.

"This trial proves that not only is the system broken. It's in a state of emergency. It's an emergency for employment law, for business and innovation in the state of California," the statement said.

David is heir to a Greek Coca-Cola bottling fortune. He heads several media firms, including FilmOn Networks, Alki David Productions Inc.

and Hologram USA Networks Inc.

It was the third verdict this year against David, who has been accused of inappropriate behavior by former employees, according to the Los Angeles Times.

A jury in April awarded another employee \$11.1 million. She said he fired her after she refused to have sex with him. She later agreed to a reduction in compensatory damages. Punitive damages remained at \$8 million.

## Trump campaign to stop giving credentials to Bloomberg News

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump's campaign said Monday it will no longer give credentials to Bloomberg News reporters to cover campaign events because of coverage "biases," an accusation that the news organization rejects.

The decision comes a week after the news service's founder, billionaire Michael Bloomberg, announced he was seeking the Democratic nomination for president. And Bloomberg News, which the former New York City mayor founded in 1990, said it would not investigate him or his Democratic rivals but would continue to probe the Trump administration, as the sitting government.

Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale called it a troubling decision to "formalize preferential reporting policies." He said Bloomberg reporters would no longer be credentialed to cover campaign events until the policy is rescinded.

"As President Trump's campaign, we are accustomed to unfair reporting practices, but most news organizations don't announce their biases so publicly," Parscale said.

Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait said the accusation of bias couldn't be further from the truth.

"We have covered Donald Trump fairly and in an unbiased way since he became a candidate in 2015 and will continue to do so despite the restrictions imposed by the Trump campaign," he said.

The Trump campaign's action illustrates the difficult position Bloomberg's candidacy has imposed on the news organization.

By saying reporters could not investigate Bloomberg or his Democratic rivals, some critics have said this would prevent the news organization from doing in-depth reporting on the campaign. Bloomberg officials say it's a position they've navigated before when he was mayor.

## NY Philharmonic to cut 500 seats in \$550 million renovation

NEW YORK (AP)—The capacity of the New York Philharmonic's much-maligned concert hall at Lincoln Center will be reduced by more than 500 seats as part of a \$550 million renovation that will cause the orchestra to relocate during part of the 2023-24 season.

Geffen Hall's reconstruction is slated for completion by March 2024, and \$360 million in funding has been raised, the Philharmonic and Lincoln Center said Monday.

Space in the lobby and the grand promenade will be doubled as the box office and escalators are relocated. There will be additions of a media streaming wall in the lobby, a welcome center, a sidewalk studio for education activities and areas for art installations. There also will be new dining options and patron lounges.

Lincoln Center President Henry Timms and Philharmonic President Deborah Borda announced the plans during a news conference Monday.

"We're looking forward to creating a hall that the city deserves," Timms said, adding that Lincoln Center will seek partial government funding.

About two-thirds of the hall's third tier will be eliminated, the rows in the orchestra cut from 43 to 33 and the auditorium floor raked increased. The stage will be moved forward 25 feet, allowing seven rows of wraparound seating behind the orchestra, changes that will cut capacity from 2,738 to under 2,200.

Distance from the last row of the orchestra to the stage will drop from 119 feet to 92, and the number of seats more than 100 feet from the stage will be reduced from 800 to about 220.

## NBC, union investigate 'America's Got Talent' racism report

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC and the guild that represents television performers said they are investigating Gabrielle Union's allegation that she was fired as a judge on "America's Got Talent" because she complained of racism and other on-set issues.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists issued a statement Monday saying it is looking into the

allegations.

"We take issues of workplace health and safety very seriously," The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television said in a statement. "We immediately reached out to Ms. Union's representatives when these reports came to light ... While we have taken steps to investigate this matter, we have nothing to report now."

The statement said such investigations and their results

are usually kept confidential, unless the union member making the report wants it made public.

According to reports, Union, who is black, sought action to address an environment she said allowed racist jokes, comments and notes from producers along with other troubling behavior, including judge-producer Simon Cowell's smoking indoors.

NBC, production company

Fremantle and Cowell's company Syco issued their own statement Sunday.

"We remain committed to ensuring a respectful workplace for all employees and take very seriously any questions about workplace culture," the statement said. "We are working with Ms. Union through her representatives to hear more about her concerns, following which we will take whatever next steps may be appropriate."

## Report: Placido Domingo denies alleged casting power abuse



Opera star Placido Domingo performs during a concert at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Germany, on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

I am a public person, that I should be under the spotlight of public opinion. But very offensive things were said about me as a human being," Domingo said. "In just a few hours, without (my) being asked, my engagements in Philadelphia and San Francisco were canceled. In a few days, half a century of career was swept away, as if with a breath."

Asked by the Italian newspaper if his reaction to the first report—noting that the rules and standards had changed from the past—amounted to a "partial admission of guilt," Domingo did not directly deny the allegations.

He responded: "I am convinced that every form of sexual molestation and offensive behavior toward anyone should be condemned in any place, in any historic period."

week, looking ahead to a 50th anniversary concert Dec. 15 at Milan's La Scala.

Domingo, who gave a similar interview to a Spanish outlet last week, said that the reports "in which I was heavily accused of sexual molestation and abuse of power" hit like "lightning."

The first AP report was published in August, just after a successful concert marking his 50th year at the outdoor Arena amphitheater in Verona. The second was published in September.

"In a moment, the news became global, enormous, and it didn't let up. It is right, in that

# Eilish, Lizzo, Lil Nas X named 1st Apple Music Award winners

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Billie Eilish will be the first recipient of the Apple Music Award for global artist of the year, one of three honors for the pop singer.

Apple announced Monday that Eilish's "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"

has been named album of the year. Eilish and her brother Finneas will also receive songwriter of the year honors.

Eilish will perform a live-streamed concert from the Steve Jobs Theater at Apple's campus in Cupertino, California, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

PST on Wednesday. Lizzo has been named the breakthrough artist of the year.

Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road" is the company's pick for song of the year.

The company says its album and song of the year honors are determined by streams on

its Apple Music service. Other awards are determined by Apple Music's editorial team.

AP  
This June 9, 2019 file photo shows Billie Eilish performing during the "When We All Fall Asleep" tour in Chicago.

## NYC Ballet casts first black Marie in 'The Nutcracker'

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York City Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" has cast a black dancer to play Marie for the first time.

The New York Times reports Charlotte Nebres will star in this year's rendition

of the company's production, which started in 1954.

Nebres is a student at the School of American Ballet. Her mother's family is from Trinidad and her father's family is from the Philippines.

The 11-year-old Nebres

says she remembers being inspired by Misty Copeland becoming the first African-American female principal at American Ballet Theater.

Nebres will be joined by a diverse group of young leads.

Nebres' Prince, Tanner Quirk, is half-Chinese. Sophia Thomopoulos, who will also play Marie, is half-Korean, half-Greek. Sophia's Prince will be played by Kai Misra-Stone, who is half-South Asian.

## Staten Island teen battling cancer gets week of surprises

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. (AP)—A teenager fighting advanced bone cancer received a visit from his favorite rapper and got to exchange messages with a superhero.

The Staten Island Advance reports rapper Joyner Lucas

went to Staten Island University Hospital to spend time with 14-year-old Jonathan Morales.

Morales was diagnosed last year with Stage 4 osteosarcoma and will have to undergo two major surgeries over the

next two months.

Lucas gave him a necklace calling him "an inspiration."

Morales had a week of surprises including a private screening of his favorite movie, "Avengers: Endgame," and a video message from Robert

Downey Jr. who played Iron Man.

Downey asked Morales if he liked the movie and asked him to send a video back.

Gloria Morales says words cannot express what the surprises have done for her son.

## Melania Trump's abroad, but not on promised 'Be Best' trip



WASHINGTON (AP)—Melania Trump is traveling abroad this week, but it's not the "Be Best" trip she promised.

The first lady announced in May, on the first anniversary of her "Be Best" youth initiative, that she'd promote the effort this fall on her second solo international trip. She gave no destination and said details were "still coming together."

But fall is about over and Mrs. Trump hasn't announced a foreign trip. The White House did not respond to requests for comment on the status of her promised trip.

On Monday, she accompanied President Donald Trump to London, where he'll attend NATO meetings Tuesday and Wednesday.

The first lady traveled to Ghana, Malawi, Kenya and Egypt in October 2018 to promote "Be Best."

AP  
First lady Melania Trump walks on the South Lawn of the White House before departing with President Donald Trump as they head to England, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

## Boss shrugs off concerns about raunchy talk at work

**D**EAR ABBY: My husband works with a group of men who often become vulgar in their conversations. My husband was raised to have respect and dignity, so he is uncomfortable with it.

The men discuss their wives and girlfriends in explicit detail. Some of them have daughters. It is just insane! Would they want someone talking about their daughters like that?!

My husband tries to ignore it or change the subject. Although he gets stressed about it, he can't go to the boss because his boss chimes in. The boss once said, "Oh, it's just men talking." My husband finds the whole thing disrespectful. He could go to Human Resources, but he's not sure he should. What should he do?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN WYOMING

**DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE:** Your husband should not have to be subjected to conversations in the workplace that make him uncomfortable. He should have spoken up when it first happened. And he should still make his feelings known and bow out of these interactions. If HR in that company is strong enough to institute some rules that will be respected, he should alert someone there to the uncomfortable work environment in his department.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a widow of two years who is taking my first steps getting back out there into the dating world. The dating sites scare me for lots of reasons. My biggest concern is

the sexual part of dating. How do you know if the person is healthy? Do you ask if they have been tested lately, or ever? Should I have to ask if they have protection?

I'm way past getting pregnant, but I don't want any surprises either. I do plan on getting to know the man before I get to the romantic part, but would like to know how to address my concerns.

READY TO MOVE FORWARD

**DEAR READY:** You are a wise lady. According to the Centers for Disease Control, STDs like herpes, gonorrhea, hepatitis B and trichomoniasis are spreading like wildfire. In 2017, nearly 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis were reported in the United States. You should also be aware that 1 in 6 new cases of HIV diagnosed were among people over the age of 50.

This is why, before getting to the "romantic part," it is imperative you have a frank, honest, open discussion about sexually transmitted diseases and to refrain from having unprotected sexual contact unless you and your partner are in an exclusive relationship and you both have been tested, preferably together.

**DEAR ABBY:** This may seem a bit crazy. While out to dinner with friends, I noticed a ring on my girlfriend's finger. My husband and I had traveled with them in Portugal last year. About the same time, I lost a ring that closely resembled the one my friend



## Organization announces funding for 250 local journalists

NEW YORK (AP)—An organization that is trying to bolster the struggling local news industry said Monday that it will help fund the hiring of 250 journalists across the country next year.

That's a sharp increase from the 61 journalists put in the field this year by Report for America, an initiative of the GroundTruth Project. Its first class of local reporters in 2018 numbered 13.

With the help of foundation funding, Report for America pays half the salary of these reporters for two years. Local news organizations kick in 25% and agree to raise the remainder from donations by local sources.

The growing support illustrates how people outside of the news industry are recognizing what is lost in com-



## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

was wearing. What's the best way to ask her where she got it without sounding accusatory? The ring is unique, and I think it is mine. I look forward to your advice on handling this.

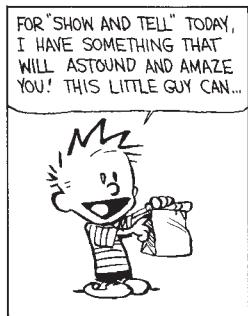
LOST RING UP NORTH

**DEAR LOST RING:** Ask your friend if she "found" that lovely ring because it is similar to one you lost during that trip to Portugal. If she denies it, drop the subject unless you prefer to drop the friend.

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



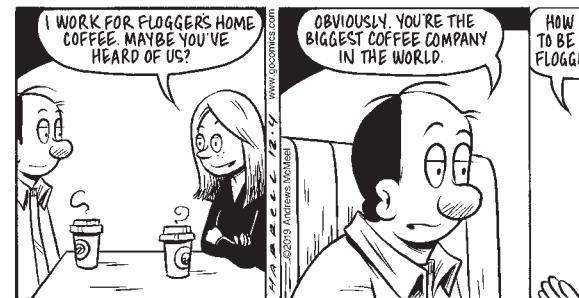
By Bill Watterson

## Garfield®



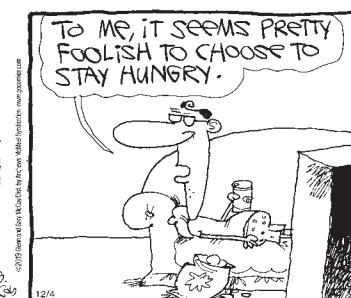
By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



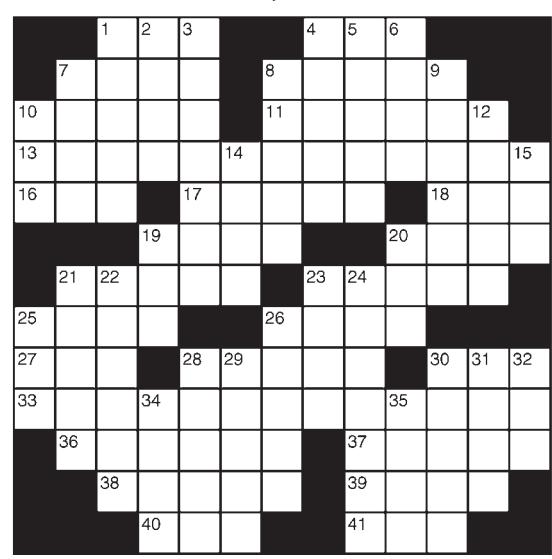
By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	26	Lose	DOWN	14
1	Soup	color	1	Ship's
2	container	27	Blackbird	uncertain
3	Soon-to-	28	Alpha's	terms
4	be grads	opposite	2	Athletic
5	Rescue	30	Small	15
6	Select	batteries	3	God of
7	group	the sea	4	Winter
8	Vegas	33	Good	20
9	area	omens	36	Snake
10	Maiden	Fighting	37	poison
11	in "The	spirit	38	5
12	Raven"	Nick of	Take	Wash off
13	In art,	"Cape	the	6
14	the area	Fear"	wheel	Desist
15	between	39	Flock	7
16	and	40	females	British
17	around	Hockey's	41	gun
18	objects	Bobby	Squealer	23
19	Yoko	10	Paris	Fury
20	from	cone	42	"Lou
21	Tokyo	12	School	Grant"
22	Merge	25	43	star
23	Drunkard	Hit with a	26	25
24	Curry and	ray gun	Flu	Flu
25	Landers	ates	symptom	symptom
26	Animation	27	28	Playful
27	frames	Grace-	Track	sea critter
28	YouTube	land	athlete	30
29	offering	idol	Shoelace	Pismires
30	Actress	9	tip	32
31	Wither-	Obliter-	31	Compass
32	spoon	ates	7	dir.
33	25	44	34	"Suffice
34	Nada	Elf	— say ..."	— say ..."
35		Pre	35	Corn Belt
				state

Yesterday's answer 12-4



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## STUMPED?

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Tyra Banks, 46; Jay-Z, 50; Marisa Tomei, 55; Jeff Bridges, 70.

**Happy Birthday:** You'll have to filter through the information you are given this year and do your due diligence before taking someone's word as truth. Go directly to the source, ask blunt questions and leave nothing to chance. Your future depends on how you go about delineating information you come across and using it to your advantage. Truth and integrity matter. Your numbers are 8, 12, 21, 24, 33, 41, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Stay in control. If you overreact, you'll have regrets.

Look for a unique way to convince someone to see things your way. A money matter can be resolved if you look for an investment that will encourage you to head in a new direction.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Put yourself out there. Offer ideas, hands-on help and your expertise. Joining forces with someone who has as much to offer as you will help you bring about positive changes that improve your life. Romance will enhance a meaningful relationship.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Be secretive about your personal business, how you feel or what you intend to do next. The less you share with others, the easier it will be to get things done. A partnership will need an adjustment if you want it to continue.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Explore possibilities. Don't fear making changes, meeting new people or trying something

you've never done. Be open and receptive to suggestions and willing to discuss your plans. A professional opportunity looks promising. Romance will improve your personal life.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get angry; get moving. If you waste time disagreeing with someone who will never see things your way, you will miss out on something new and exciting. Follow through with your plans, and let others do as they please.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and about. The less time spent at home or around someone who is a bad influence, the better. Surround yourself with people who are ambitious and eager to make a difference. A positive change is heading your way.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't jump for joy until you are sure you've taken care of every detail necessary to avoid complaints or criticism. If someone overreacts, puts pressure on you or tries to interfere in your life, be prepared to walk away.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make changes to the way you live that will be conducive to getting ahead. Information you gather will help you make an adjustment to the way you earn your living. Keep up with technology and what's trending. Romance is featured.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional manipulation should not be tolerated. Your generosity will end up costing. Don't

pay for someone's mistake. Offer suggestions, not cash or your services for free. A personal change you make will motivate you to do better.

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A shift in the way you earn your living or handle your cash will make your life easier. Expect to receive a surprise from someone you least expect. A change at home will encourage you to make a physical improvement as well.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on what others are doing and how it will affect you. Get ready to protect your interests and your future by maintaining a stable personal financial footing. Less spending and more observing will help. Avoid joint ventures.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your plans simple. If you are too elaborate or paint a brighter vision than what you can produce, you'll have to answer to someone who doesn't agree with your tactics. Moderation and practicality will help you excel.

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, caring and energetic. You are unique and imaginative.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6					
			2	7				
			8		4			
	1	5	7	6	9			
	8		3					
	4			5				
	2				4			
	7	5	4	1	9	6	2	
	3	6	8	7	5	4	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	4	6	2	3	5	1	7
1	3	7	5	4	8	6	9	2
5	2	6	7	1	9	8	3	4
4	8	9	2	6	7	3	5	1
7	6	5	1	3	4	9	2	8
2	1	3	9	8	5	4	7	6
3	7	2	8	5	6	1	4	9
6	4	1	3	9	2	7	8	5
9	5	8	4	7	1	2	6	3

Difficulty Level \*\*\*\*

## WONDERWORD

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www.wonderword.com

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 5 letters

O	B	E	N	D	B	A	H	A	M	A	S	E	E	D
T	C	A	N	I	L	O	R	A	C	H	T	U	O	S
H	E	I	G	H	T	W	O	N	S	T	O	R	U	
E	W	X	X	D	L	O	C	T	N	A	L	P	R	M
A	F	C	A	E	T	R	E	E	J	O	N	E	S	M
T	T	L	A	S	M	R	A	I	N	A	W	D	S	E
U	W	T	O	B	H	F	N	G	S	O	C	A	B	R
R	O	S	I	R	B	A	O	E	L	L	B	K	A	A
K	R	T	T	U	I	A	D	F	T	A	A	T	S	V
S	G	E	P	U	R	D	G	E	L	A	S	N	E	I
O	D	M	G	A	L	F	A	E	L	U	M	A	D	T

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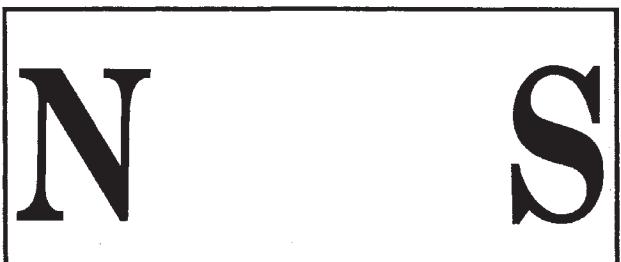
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# Moustakas agrees to \$64M, 4-year deal with Reds



**CINCINNATI**  
(AP)—All-Star infielder Mike Moustakas and the Cincinnati Reds have agreed to a \$64 million, four-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, the team's first move to upgrade a lineup that struggled to score.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the agreement had not been announced.

For the second consecutive offseason, the active Reds are splurging as they try to shake themselves out of a rut of six straight losing seasons. Their first move involves getting a player from the NL Central-rival Milwaukee Brewers. The 31-year-old Moustakas could fill the Reds' hole at second base that opened when Scooter Gennett got hurt and then was traded last season.

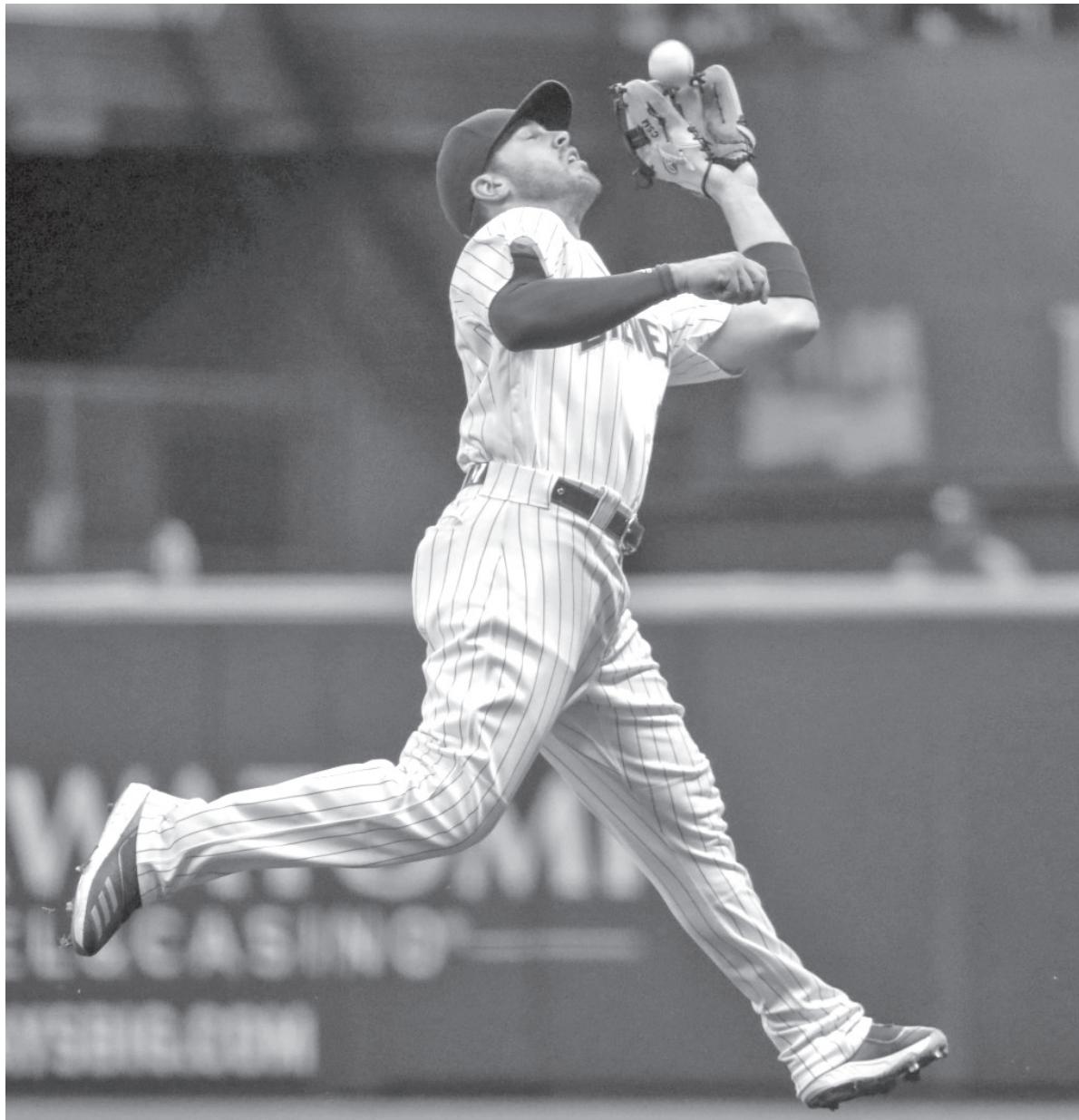
Cincinnati scored the fourth-fewest runs in the NL last season despite one of the league's most hitter-friendly ballparks. Bulking up on offense, stabilizing the outfield and overhauling the bullpen are the Reds' priorities in the offseason.

Moustakas is a first step toward fixing the offense. He hit .254 with 35 homers and 87 RBIs this year, making his third All-Star team. He began the season at second base and moved to third with Travis Shaw in a slump. Cincinnati has Eugenio Suarez at third base.

The Reds haven't been to the playoffs since 2012, when they won 90 games and lost to the Pirates in the NL wild-card game. Cincinnati then launched into a rebuild, trading away stars for prospects. The team lost at least 94 games annually from 2015-18.

Cincinnati reversed course and decided to try to become competitive again last season by trading for Yasiel Puig, Matt Kemp, Alex Wood, Tanner Roark and Sonny Gray, who became an All-Star. Puig, Kemp and Roark were dealt during the season, along with Gennett. The Reds finally escaped last place, finishing ahead of Pittsburgh with a 75-87 mark, but they wasted a lot of solid pitching along the way.

Moustakas has 42 games of playoff experience with the Royals from 2014-15 and the Brewers the last two seasons.



AP  
Milwaukee Brewers' Mike Moustakas makes a running catch on a ball hit by Cincinnati Reds' Yasiel Puig during the second inning of a baseball game Friday, June 21, 2019, in Milwaukee.

career, joked that his friends "tell me I should go claim unemployment."

He dealt with injuries in 2019 and appeared in only 52 regular season games, batting .257 with six homers and 27 RBI. But he moved into the lineup during the postseason, starting Washington's last 13 games as they wound up beating the Houston Astros in the World Series for the city's first championship since 1924.

## Free agents

Former All-Stars Blake Treinen, Aaron Sanchez and Addison Russell were among 56 players who became free agents along with current Gold Glove second baseman Yolmer Sanchez when their teams declined to offer 2020 contracts Monday rather than make them eligible for salary arbitration.

Baltimore, faced with a similar decision, traded second baseman Jonathan Villar to Miami, which claimed first baseman Jesus Aguilar off waivers from Tampa Bay.

Ahead of the deadline to offer 2020 contracts to unsigned players on 40-man rosters, San Diego obtained second baseman Jurickson Profar from Oakland for catching prospect Austin Allen, then agreed to a \$5.7 million, one-year contract. Cleveland acquired catcher Sandy Leon from Boston for minor league right-hander Adenys Bautista and agreed to a \$2 million deal.

About two dozen players agreed to contracts and the total of players eligible for arbitration dropped from about 230 at the start of the day to approximately 165.

Seattle failed to offer a contract to infielder Tim Beckham, who has 32 games remaining on a drug suspension, and San Francisco let go outfielder Kevin Pillar.

Among others cut loose were Philadelphia third baseman Maikel Franco and second baseman Cesar Hernandez; Arizona outfielder Steven Souza Jr. and Minnesota designated hitter C.J. Cron.

He rejected a \$17.4 million qualifying offer from Kansas City after the 2017 season but eventually returned to the Royals on a one-year deal. He was traded to the Brewers that July and finished with a .251 batting average, 28 homers and 95 RBIs.

He had a \$7 million salary this year and gets a \$3 million buyout for declining his \$10 million option. He's made \$18.7 million on a pair of one-year deals the last two seasons.

Cincinnati did not offer 2020 contracts to right-hander Kevin Gausman and infielder-outfielder José Peraza. The Reds agreed with outfielder Travis Jankowski on a \$1.05 million, one-year deal, avoiding salary arbitration.

Moustakas has 42 games of playoff experience with the Royals from 2014-15 and the Brewers the last two seasons.

Peraza batted .239 with six homers and 33 RBIs in 141 games. Gausman was 3-9 with a 5.72 ERA in 31 games combined, 17 starts, for Atlanta and Cincinnati.

## Zimmerman: Stay with Nats or retire

Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman figures he'll either find himself back with the World Series champions next season—or out of baseball.

"I think I've made my intentions pretty clear, Zimmerman said Monday night, when he attended the premiere of a documentary about last season's title. "It's either play some more here or play more golf."

The 35-year-old Zimmerman is the only player who has appeared for the Nationals in all 15 of their seasons since the franchise moved to the nation's capital from Montreal in 2005. He was the team's first pick in the amateur draft that year.

The club declined its \$18 million option for next season on Zimmerman, who received a \$2 million buyout and became a free agent. But he expects to return to Washington.

"Both sides want something to happen. So it's just a matter of getting something done," he said. "We'll see what happens, but I'm not too worried about it."

Zimmerman, who has earned more than \$125 million in his big league



showed any sign of slowing down since the start of the new European season, marking his 700th game for Barcelona

last week with a goal and two assists in beating Borussia Dortmund 3-1. So far this year, Messi has 41 goals in 44 games.

Messi also won his sixth FIFA award in September, edging Van Dijk, who missed the chance to become the first defender to top the France Football poll since Italy's World Cup-winning captain, Fabio Cannavaro, in 2006.

Van Dijk clinched the 2019 Champions League crown with

the Reds after obliterating Messi's Barcelona in the semifinals.

"It's been an amazing year, I was close but unfortunately there are a couple of players like (Messi). I am very proud," Van Dijk said.

He was among seven Liverpool players nominated, beside goalkeeper Alisson Becker, defender Trent Alexander-Arnold, midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum and forwards Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino.

Rapinoe won the women's Ballon d'Or for leading the United States to World Cup glory in July. She scored six goals in the championship,

earning her the Golden Boot as the top scorer and the Golden Ball as the top player.

"I'm so sad I can't make it tonight," Rapinoe said on video. "I'll do my best to get there next year."

France Football magazine has been awarding the Ballon d'Or since 1956 and created a women's award for the first time last year when Norway's Ada Hegerberg won it. Hegerberg was fourth this time. Lucy Bronze of England was second, and Alex Morgan third.

Juventus defender Matthijs De Light won the Kopa Trophy for the best under-21 player, and the inaugural Yashin Trophy given to the year's best men's goalkeeper went to Liverpool's Alisson.

# Messi, Rapinoe win Ballon d'Or awards

**PARIS** (AP)—After becoming the first six-time winner of the Ballon d'Or, Lionel Messi said he's far from finished.

"I hope to continue for a long time," Messi said on Monday in Paris from behind a row of the trophies which honor the world's best soccer player.

"I realize that I am very lucky, even if, one day, retirement will come. It will be difficult. But I still have a lot of good years ahead of me. Time goes by very quickly, so I want to enjoy football and my family."

While the 32-year-old Messi won his sixth Ballon d'Or, United States captain Megan Rapinoe won her first.

"I can't believe I'm the one winning in this field, it's been an incredible year," Rapinoe

said in a recorded video message during the ceremony at the lavish Theatre du Chatelet.

Messi has received the Ballon d'Or previously in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2015.

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk was second in the polling this year, followed by Cristiano Ronaldo, who shared the record of five Ballon d'Ors with Messi until Monday.

Messi's and Ronaldo's 10-year grip on the award organized by France Football magazine was ended last year by Luka Modric.

But Messi was back on top of his game over the past 12 months. He scored 36 times

last season en route to a 10th Spanish Liga title, and was the Champions League top scorer. His goals in the Liga also made

him the top scorer in Europe's biggest leagues, earning him the Golden Shoe award.

"A few years ago, I received my first Ballon d'Or here in Paris," Messi said. "I was 22 years old. It was something unthinkable at the time. Today is my sixth Ballon d'Or. As my wife used to say, you should never stop dreaming but always work to improve and continue to enjoy yourself."

The Argentine has not

# Giannis lifts Bucks to blowout versus Knicks



**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Knicks coach David Fizdale knew his struggling team faced a huge challenge Monday night against the streaking Milwaukee Bucks.

New York stumbled at the start and never had a chance as Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks won their 12th straight game in a 132-88 romp.

Antetokounmpo needed only 14 minutes on the court to record another double-double, finishing with 29 points and 15 rebounds. The Bucks won by 44 points after beating Charlotte by 41 on Saturday, the first time in franchise history Milwaukee posted back-to-back winning margins of 40 points or more. It was the fifth time it's been done in NBA history.

“I don’t feel we came in here with the idea we could beat this team,” Fizdale said. “That is what was most disappointing. They got whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted. We never took a real stand.”

The Bucks (18-3) led by as many as 47 and cruised behind Antetokounmpo, who pulled down his 10th rebound with 4:43 left in the second quarter for his league-leading 20th double-double.

The reigning MVP shot 10 of 14 from the field, including 3 for 4 from 3-point range, while playing 22 minutes. He exited with nearly five minutes left in the third quarter and the Bucks ahead 93-54.

“I watch and listen to him lead his guys,” Fizdale said. “He’s just impressive. The league is in good hands, I know that, when you’ve got a guy like that at the top.”

Milwaukee’s winning streak is the longest in the NBA this season and the franchise’s best since the 1981-82 season. The Bucks own the league’s top record, ahead of the Los Angeles Lakers (17-3).

“I think everybody shows up every day and they’re hungry,” Antetokounmpo said. “Nobody relaxes. We show up and do our job. We smile; we’re having fun about it and it’s nice. Usually teams tend to relax, but we don’t do that.”

The Knicks (4-17) posed little challenge as they shot just 4 of 24 in the first period and trailed 33-15 after one.

D.J. Wilson added a career-high 19 points, Khris Middleton had 16 and George Hill 14 for the Bucks, who improved to 9-1 at home.

The only Antetokounmpo playing in the fourth quarter was Giannis’ older brother Thanasis, who drew cheers from the crowd when he slipped in for a layup early in the period. Thanasis Antetokounmpo, formerly a member



of the Knicks, finished with 10 points and three assists.

“It was good for us to get everybody out on the court, have some other guys not play heavy minutes,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

## Hawks 104, Warriors 79

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 24 points, rookie De’Andre Hunter added 18 and the Atlanta Hawks snapped a 10-game losing streak with a win over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the NBA.

The Warriors (4-18) finished with a season low in points (4-18). It was the lowest point total allowed by the Hawks (5-16).

Golden State dressed just nine players, even with center Kevon Looney returning to action after missing 19 games with a nerve condition.

Rookie Eric Paschall led Golden State with 24 points, but his teammates combined to shoot 24 of 72, and the Warriors were slowed by 25 turnovers, which the Hawks converted into 25 points. The Warriors were missing Draymond Green, DeAngelo Russell and Stephen Curry, among others.

Hunter scored 13 of his 18 points in the first half. He left the game midway through the fourth quarter with what appeared to be a wrist injury.

## 76ers 103, Jazz 94

In Philadelphia, Tobias Harris

scored 26 points and the 76ers beat Utah for their eighth win in nine games and 10th straight at home.

Al Horford had five baskets in the first quarter for 12 of his 17 points. James Ennis III finished with eight points.

Rudy Gobert scored 27 points for the Jazz, who trailed by 40 points to Toronto a night earlier and faced an 18-point deficit against Philadelphia at the break. Philadelphia’s Joel Embiid

had another off night, scoring 16 points on 5-for-13 shooting.

## Suns 109, Hornets 104

In Charlotte, Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 23 points, including two clutch 3-pointers in the final minute that lifted Phoenix over the Hornets.

Devin Booker added 23 points and Dario Saric had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who snapped a three-game skid.

Marvin Williams led the Hornets with a season-high 22 points and Devonte Graham had 15 points and 12 assists.

The Suns led by 20 at the break, but squandered that lead and trailed by five in the final minute. That’s when Oubre knocked down back-to-back 3s to put the Suns ahead with 19.8 seconds left.

## Pacers 117, Grizzlies 104

In Memphis, Malcolm

Milwaukee Bucks’ Giannis Antetokounmpo, left, shoots against New York Knicks’ Julius Randle during the second half of an NBA game Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Milwaukee. AP

Brogdon scored 19 points, Domantas Sabonis added 18 and Indiana beat depleted the Grizzlies.

Seven players scored in double figures for the balanced Pacers, including Myles Turner with 17 points. Jeremy Lamb and Justin Holiday had 15 apiece, with Holiday missing only one of his six 3-point attempts.

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with a season-high 31 points. Solomon Hill moved into the starting lineup and added 22, also a season best. Dillon Brooks finished with 19 on 7-of-16 shooting.

The Grizzlies were short-handed as five players—all key parts of the rotation—sat out with various ailments. That left reserves to try and play with any kind of rhythm.

## Bulls 113, Kings 106

In Sacramento, Zach LaVine scored 28 points and made four free throws in the final 11 seconds, and Chicago overcame a sloppy fourth quarter to beat the Kings.

Lauri Markkanen had 20 points and seven rebounds, Wendell Carter added 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Tomas Satoransky scored 14 points as Chicago snapped a three-game losing streak.

Buddy Hield finished with 26 points for Sacramento. Richaun Holmes added 20 points and nine rebounds.

## Woods paired with Thomas for first round at Hero

**BAHAMAS** (AP)—Tiger Woods will be surrounded by Presidents Cup teammates at this week’s Hero World Challenge, but it’s Justin Thomas who will play alongside the playing captain during the first round at Albany.

Woods and Thomas are paired together for the opener in the Bahamas, which will begin Wednesday to facilitate travel to Australia for next week’s team event. The 18-man field features 11 of the 12 U.S. representatives at Royal Melbourne, including Woods who won the Zozo Championship in October and Thomas who captured the CJ Cup the week prior.

Other notable pairings include defending champ Jon Rahm alongside Albany resident Justin Rose and former Open champs Jordan Spieth and Henrik Stenson together. The rest of the tee sheet includes nothing but red, white

and blue—and potentially some pairing options for Woods next week in Australia.

Meanwhile, Phil Mickelson has become the latest star to commit to the European Tour’s controversial stop in Saudi Arabia, a decision that means he’ll miss one of his favorite PGA Tour events for the first time in 30 years.

Mickelson has added his name to the decorated field for next year’s Saudi International. Dustin Johnson won the inaugural edition earlier this year, but the existence of the event has received criticism over the country’s human rights record and the 2018 murder of U.S.-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Mickelson’s addition to the field was announced in conjunction with that of his former Ryder Cup teammate,

Tony Finau, and the two join a list of commits that includes Johnson, world No. 1 Brooks Koepka, Shane Lowry, Patrick Reed and Henrik Stenson. Sergio Garcia will also return to the event one year after he was disqualified for purposely damaging multiple greens.

Mickelson, whose 25-year streak inside the top 50 in the world rankings came to an end last month, is “really looking forward to playing” the event according to a Saudi Gazette report.

“I watched Dustin win the title last year and thought the course looked like an interesting challenge,” Mickelson said. “Having so many talented players on show also made it look like a much more established tournament than one in its inaugural year. I have enjoyed my previous visits to the Middle East and

am looking forward to playing in a new country and doing my bit to grow the game in the kingdom.”

This will mark Mickelson’s first appearance in the Middle East since a runner-up finish in Abu Dhabi in early 2014.

The Saudi tournament’s dates (Jan. 30-Feb. 2) are the same as those of the PGA Tour’s Waste Management Phoenix Open, meaning that Mickelson opted to add a new event at the expense of one he’s played 30 times before. A product of nearby Arizona State, Mickelson has won three times at TPC Scottsdale (1996, 2005, 2013) and is a fan favorite at one of the Tour’s most raucous events.

Next year will mark the first time that Mickelson will miss the Phoenix event since 1990, when he was still an amateur enrolled at ASU and the tournament was won by Tommy Armour III over Jim Thorpe.



# Seahawks take over top spot in NFC West



**SEATTLE** (AP)—By the time the playoffs arrive, the Seattle Seahawks are going to feel just fine in a close, tight game.

Even when they're comfortably ahead, the Seahawks have a way of making the final minutes more than a little unnerving.

"Close games are cool, aren't they? I like them," Seattle coach Pete Carroll joked. "Maybe the 17 points was too much. Maybe we shouldn't have been ahead by that much."

Thanks to the combo of Rashaad Penny and Chris Carson, and one big strike from Russell Wilson, the Seahawks built a big second-half lead before holding off the Minnesota Vikings for a 37-30 win Monday night.

Penny scored one touchdown rushing and one receiving, and Wilson hit David Moore on a 60-yard touchdown pass as the Seahawks scored 24 straight points to take control before needing to hold on late as the Vikings tried to rally.

Seattle (10-2) moved into a tie with San Francisco atop of the NFC West but holds the tiebreaker. The Seahawks have the inside track to the division title with four games left.

"Just couldn't be more excited to have that kind of win and put us at 10 wins, that's a nice spot for this time," Carroll said. "We kick it into the fourth quarter and now it's finish time."

Minnesota (8-4) fell a game behind Green Bay in the NFC North and is only one game ahead of the Los Angeles Rams in the wild-card race. They lost star running back Dalvin Cook to a shoulder injury when he fumbled midway through the third quarter in what became a major turning point.

Cook said he believes he should be able to play next week and took responsibility for the fumble.

"Everybody acts like this is the end of the world, we lost one game tonight," Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer said. "We're 8-4 we have four games left, three division games. This isn't the end of the world, we still have a lot of good football left to play."

Wilson wasn't great, but he came up with key plays as Seattle won its fifth straight. He had a forgettable first-half moment trying to bat down a deflected pass only to watch Anthony Harris intercept the ball and return it for a touchdown. Wilson was 21 of 31 for 240 yards.

The key was the running of Penny and Chris Carson. Se-



**AP** Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) scrambles away from Minnesota Vikings' Ifeadi Odenigbo during the second half of an NFL game, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Seattle.

for 276 yards but couldn't connect with Irv Smith Jr. on fourth-and-3 at the Vikings 42 with 2:31 left. Jason Myers' 36-yard field goal with 21 seconds left provided the final margin for Seattle.

"I think we have a football team that can go on the road in a tough environment and get a win. I think this is an opportunity we missed. It's disappointing," Cousins said.

It was a wild second half featuring 40 combined points and four key turnovers — three by Minnesota.

Seattle pulled even at 17 on Penny's 1-yard TD run. On Minnesota's first play of the next possession, Cook was stripped by Rasheem Green, and Bradley McDougald recovered. It was the first of two critical turnovers that led to 10 points for Seattle.

The Seahawks were held to a field goal following Cook's fumble but took a 27-17 lead on their next possession when Moore ran free through the Vikings secondary and Wilson hit him in stride.

Minnesota cornerback Xavier Rhodes appeared to think he had safety help over the top, but no one was there as Moore sprinted for his second TD catch of the season on the next-to-last play of the third quarter.

The first play of the fourth quarter was forgettable for the Vikings as well. Cousins' pass for Stefon Diggs was intercepted by Tre Flowers, who may have gotten away with pass interference, but deflected the pass and made a juggling interception at the Minnesota 25. Three plays later, Wilson found Penny on a screen pass and Seattle had a 17-point lead.

Minnesota's rally started with Seattle's own blown coverage as Cousins hit Laquon Treadwell for a 58-yard TD. Seattle seemed poised to add on, helped by a fake punt that Travis Homer took for 29 yards, but DK Metcalf fumbled and the Vikings recovered at their 28 with 9:34 left.

It took barely 2 minutes for Minnesota to pull within 34-30 as Cousins connected with Kyle Rudolph for a 3-yard touchdown and another brilliant one-handed catch by the Vikings' tight end. But that was as close as Minnesota would get.

"We're in control and that's a great thing. We like having that," Wilson said.

## Pats have much to clean up with Chiefs up next

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—Issues on offense have been a recurring theme for the Patriots this season.

The saving grace has been a defense that put up historic numbers in guiding New England to an 8-0 start.

But for the second time in four games an opponent found a way to score points against that once imposing unit.

The latest setback, a 28-22 loss to Houston on Sunday, cost New England its place as the sole leader atop the AFC. It's left the Patriots with much to clean up on both sides of the ball as they prepare to host Kansas City in a rematch of last season's AFC championship game.

New England's defense entered Sunday allowing a league-low 10.6 points per game and leading the NFL with 29 total takeaways. It had also allowed only four passing touchdowns through 11 games.

The Patriots (10-2) didn't force a turnover on Sunday, while the Texans accounted for four passing scores. The passing TDs were the most that New England has given

up since it surrendered three in a Week 14 loss at Miami last season.

Meanwhile, the Patriots are going through their roughest stretch this season on offense. The Jets, Dolphins, Broncos rank in the bottom five in points per game in 2019 but are all averaging more points than New England (18 ppg) since the start of November.

Quarterback Tom Brady's 88.2 passer rating is his lowest since 2013.

The Patriots remain in first place in the AFC East and are tied with Baltimore for the conference's best record. But if both teams end the season with the same record, the Ravens would get the top seed in the playoffs by virtue of their win over New England on Nov. 3.

Safety Devin McCourty liked the fight the team showed late against Houston after finding itself trailing 21-3 in the third quarter. But he said it means nothing without a victory.

"Now, playing the good teams, you got to execute," he said. "It's not about just

being a staple of our offense. That's our foundation and both of those guys are amazing backs. They're really com-

ing on," Seattle offensive lineman Duane Brown said.

Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins was 22 of 38

fighting and playing hard. You got to execute."

During his weekly appearance on WEEI radio on Monday, Brady acknowledged that there must be better consistency on offense but said expectations must also be realistic for a group that's already faced a lot of adversity.

"We not 2-10. We're 10-2," Brady said. "The expectations for our team often are at a very high level and I understand that. But at the same time, I think there are realistic expectations with our circumstances, incorporating different elements and players and injuries. And we're just trying to do the best that we can do."

New England got some help from a passive Texans defense in the fourth quarter, but the Patriots did look good in their final two offensive drives of the night. Despite starting with the ball on the 25- and 6-yardline, Brady led New England to a pair of touchdowns to give the Patriots a chance at a comeback.

The Patriots younger receivers were guilty of poor route running on multiple occa-

sions, causing Brady to openly display his frustration on the sideline. With teams now using double teams on receiver Julian Edelman and running back James White, better precision by younger players like Phillip Dorsett, Jakobi Meyers and N'Keal Harry will be imperative for Brady to be able to spread the ball around.

While White was well-covered for most of the night, he managed to lead the team with eight catches for 98 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a team high 79 yards on 14 carries. The 177 scrimmage yards is a new career high.

Brady has now gone seven straight games with a passer rating below 100. That's the longest streak of his career.

The Patriots won two shootouts with the Chiefs last season, using a last-second field goal to beat them 43-40 during the regular season and then needed overtime to post a 37-31 victory in the AFC title game. Kansas City is just as explosive this season averaging 29 points per game, which ranks third in the NFL.

# NMA sets Christmas Island Relay for Dec. 28

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Athletics will hold the 38th Annual Christmas Island Relay on Dec. 28 as a culmination of its events for the 2019 season.

The race will start at 6am with the course starting at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and ending at the Last Command Post in Marpi. Runners can join the open mixed, youth mixed, and solo categories.

In the open mixed division, teams must have five runners who will alternately run one mile each from start to finish. The open mixed should have a member who is 16 years old or



younger, a female, or 40 years

must be 16 under with least one female or one 12 under participant. Members must also

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, Agape Christian School A runners celebrate as they near completion of last year's Christmas Island Relay.

alternate through the one-mile stages from San Antonio to Marpi. The registration fees for both divisions are \$5 per runner or \$25 per team. For solo runners, entry fee is \$10.

NMA president Ray Tebuteb said the association hosts the Christmas Island Relay to end the year on a high note and get together in the spirit of the holidays. The event is known to attract hundreds of running enthusiasts and is also one of the many activities that NMA hosts in its continued efforts to promote national physical fit-

ness, health and wellness.

Last year's Agape A's Peter Wang, Jonathan Xiong, William Chen, Leo Li, and David Cai ruled the open division after timing in at 1:26:30. TRAC 1's Keith Longuski, Charlie Sendin, David Brook, Heather Taylor, and Josh David Joson came in second after submitting 1:28:21, while Rintaro Miyawaki, Joshua Abragan, Christopher Aninzo, Anthony Fruit, and Clayton Izuka rounded out the Top 3 with a time of 1:29:50.

In the solo division, Ronald Villafria was the top finisher with his 1:43.30, and was followed by Max Simian (1:50:24) and Edmond Bata (1:54:19).

## M-LEAGUE

From Page 28

the 11th minute and also got his second goal in the opening half after lighting up the board anew in the 29th. Rojas delivered the pair for All Blue late in the first half, as he found his target in the 34th and 43rd minute to lift the eventual division champion to a 5-2 halftime advantage. All Blue, earlier in the 19th minute, drew one goal from Joshua De Leon.

While three different players made it to the board for All Blue, only Mark Esalan scored for TanHoldings, forcing the squad to play catch up after the break. Esalan had his first goal in the 13th minute and the second in the 36th.

In the second half, TanHoldings finally got a goal from a different player with Jim Maniago nailing a shot in the 52nd minute to cut the deficit to 2, 3-5. However, Reginald Pascual countered eight minutes later to keep All Blue's safe distance.

Both teams made repeated attempts to score in the next 20 minutes and some change, but faltered. Esalan then earned his third goal and fourth for TanHoldings, but it came in the 88th minute or late in the second half where All Blue had the luxury to use the clock to keep its lead and foil its foe's comeback bid.

## Paire 10, KFAS 1

In the other Division A match last Sunday, Paire walloped Korean Football Association on Saipan.

Chris Nelson, Jireh Yobech, and Brad Ruzsala logged two goals apiece for Paire, while Alan Guidino, Yoji Singh, Oiwei Wang, and Samuel Smith chipped in one each.

KFAS drew its lone goal from Junsik Kim, who averted the squad's shutout loss when



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
All Blue defenders hound TanHoldings Football Club's Alan Hinson during the second half of their Division A game in the 2019 Fall Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

he scored in the 80th minute.

### DIVISION B Matansa 4, WNT 3

In the only match in Division B last Sunday, Matansa survived the CNMI Women's National Team's second half rally.

Ahead after the first half, 2-0, Matansa was forced to a deadlock in the 80th minute after Janannah Casarino made the equalizer. Fortunately for Matansa, David Mafnas came to the team's rescue, as he delivered the go-ahead four minutes later.

Matansa led at the break off Amzad Khan's goal in the 12th minute and Gabriel Arkoh Jr.'s

conversion in the 37th. Jerlyn Castillo then put WNT on the board seven minutes into the second half to move their squad within one, but Arkoh's goal in the 73rd minute gave Matansa more cushion.

Castillo answered with her second goal three minutes later to keep Matansa within striking distance before eventually tying the game. However, Matansa had the last say, thanks to Mafnas' dagger.

Matansa finished the season with five victories in eight games, while the WNT failed to win a single match in the division.

## M-LEAGUE STANDINGS

(As of Dec. 3, 2019)

### Division A

TEAMS	W	D	L	PTS	GA	GA	GD
All Blue	7	1	0	22	37	10	27
TanHoldings	5	0	3	15	32	24	81
Paire	4	1	2	13	25	13	12
Old B Bank	1	0	6	3	11	39	-28
KFAS	1	0	7	3	5	12	-7

### Division B

Kanoa	5	0	2	15	33	22	11
Island Star	5	0	2	15	25	19	6
Matansa	5	0	3	15	24	23	1
Shirley's	4	0	4	12	28	23	5
WNT	0	0	8	0	15	39	-24

## Micronesian Baseball Classic moved to January



The third edition of the Micronesian Baseball Classic has been moved to early next year, according to MBC interim president Tony Rogolifoi.

The regional tournament will still be held at the Paseo Stadium in Guam, but matches have been scheduled from Jan. 6 to Jan. 12. Guam was supposed to hold this year's MBC in October, but had to postpone it due to scheduling challenges.

Saipan hosted the inaugural MBC in 2016 with the Commonwealth ruling the tournament after edging Guam, 15-14. The 2017 competition was originally slated in Palau, but was moved to Guam with the host defeating Palau in the gold medal game, 11-1. There was no MBC in 2018, as participating teams in the region focused on the Micronesian Games held in Yap.

After Guam's second hosting, Rogolifoi said MBC may have its fourth edition in Pohnpei, which has expressed its interest to hold the competition late next year.

### Coaches and umpires courses

Meanwhile, the Saipan Baseball League, Inc. will be

holding a two-week BCO Level 1 Coaches and Umpires Accreditation Course beginning next week.

The coaching course will run from Dec. 9 to 13 at the Oleai Sports Complex, while the umpire course is set from Dec. 16 to 20. Each session will run for two hours and potential coaches and umpires interested to be certified are welcome to register.

Besides coaching or umpiring locally, a certification will be mandatory for all managers, coaches and umpires selected to represent the CNMI in in-

ternational events, such as the Pacific Games, the Pacific Mini Games, the Micronesian Games, MBC, and other regional and international tournaments.

Interested individuals from the local Little League program are also welcome to take these courses, while clinic for youth players will be held throughout this month and in January.

All interested parties are asked to call Rogolifoi at 285-3966 for inquiries and registration information. (Saipan Tribune)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
The CNMI's Ben Jones looks up to the umpire after diving to home plate during the bottom of the first inning of their semis game against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## ISLANDER

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Tengco 7, Dayrit 6, Mendiola 5,

## JAPANESE

From Page 28

Umal 5, Manipon 4, Banzagle 4, Saplan 2, Factor 2.

**Saipan Vegas 63**—Moises 15, Usi 13, Maplas 8, Cortez

8, Park 7, Joson 4, Backe 4, Guo 2, Brillo 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-20, 32-32, 45-50, 74-63.

her several victories. She raced for the Cyclesport Collective Team—a group based in Brisbane—and won in the 2019 Tyalgum Cup, both in the State Time Trial & Road Race Championship. The Australian also qualified for the UCI World Gran Fondo in Poland and a finalist for the Queensland Elite Female Cyclist 2019 award.

Palmares, on the other hand, races for the Slovak National Cycling Team. This year, the 37-year-old pro competed in the European Continental Championships (mixed relay), National Championships Slovakia WE-Road Race, National Championships Slovakia WE, Aphrodite Cycling Race, and Aphrodite's Sanctuary Cycling Race.

Meanwhile, out to challenge Nakahara for the women's pro crown are Australia's Kylie Jill Adair and Russia's Livia Hanesova Palmares.

Adair just started road bike racing competitively two years ago, but has already shown a lot of promise with



**Moustakas  
agrees to  
\$64M, 4-year  
deal with Reds**

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**Giannis  
lifts Bucks  
to blowout  
versus Knicks**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# All Blue rules M-League



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
All Blue's Thaipi Austria, left, defends against TanHoldings Football Club's Martin Jambor during the second half of their Division A game in the 2019 Fall Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**A**ll Blue clinched the Division A championship in the 2019 Fall Men's M-League after beating TanHoldings Football Club, 6-4, in its final game of the season last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

All Blue finished the competition with a 7-1-0 win-draw-loss record, two victories ahead of TanHoldings,

which temporarily dislodged the former from the top spot late last month, but could end up at third place in the final

rankings after wrapping up the season with a 5-0-3 mark. TanHoldings is currently in second place, but a victory

by Paire Football Club (4-1-2) in a make-up game against the Old B Bank tomorrow would bring the former down to third.

Sebastien Manabat and John Michael Rojas teamed up in handing All Blue the win over TanHoldings after scoring two goals each. Manabat drew first blood with his conversion in

**See M-LEAGUE on Page 27**

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

## Japanese pro back to defend title

 Japanese pro biker Yasue Nakahara is set to return to Saipan this weekend to defend her crown in the 2019 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Nakahara ruled the women's pro division of the 2017 edition of the 100-kilometer race around the island after

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Japanese pro Yasue Nakahara negotiates an uphill road during one of the road races she competed in. Nakahara will be on Saipan this weekend to defend her women's division title in the 2019 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



clocking in at 4:01:51 and surviving an ugly crash heading out of the Bird Island Lookout-Grotto turnaround. She will arrive on Saipan this Friday in time for her title defense on Saturday.

Before joining 'Hell,' the Japanese rider was busy competing for the Union Cycliste Internationale's team in the Netherlands for the past two years. The 33-year-old is originally a triathlete before she started focusing in cycling where she joined road races around the world. This year, she finished fifth in the 2019 Japan Cup Criterium.

**See JAPANESE on Page 27**

## Islander edges Saipan Vegas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

Islander Rent a Car out-classed Saipan Vegas, 74-63, in the Masters Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Islander stole the victory from Saipan Vegas and earned the double-digit win after saving the best for last, as it rallied from a 5-point deficit in the third quarter with a 29-point explosion in the fourth.



Rocyl Ritual led Islander's strong finish after firing 12 of his 13 markers in the deciding fourth canto, which started with Saipan Vegas ahead, 50-45. Fradel Sedillo supported Ritual in bringing Islander back into the game after contributing 8 points, while four other players scored for the winning squad in the final frame.

Saipan Vegas, which led the majority of the match, absorbed a sorry loss, as it had no players scoring more than two fields goals in the

fourth quarter collapse. Haejun Park made 5 points, while Rommel Usi had 4, and two more Saipan Vegas players were held to one basket each. Ernie Moises, who logged 16 points after three quarters, was scoreless in the fourth.

Usi and Moises teamed up for Saipan Vegas in the first quarter with the former recording 9 points and the latter adding 7 for their 20-16 lead.

In the second period, Islander managed to force a deadlock, 32-all, behind the 10 first-half points of John Calbone and Olan Tengco's 8 markers. Then in the third quarter, Saipan Vegas regained the lead with Moises scoring 7 points and getting enough help from his teammates.

However, Moises was silent in the final canto and Saipan Vegas went on to drop its debut game.

**Islander** 74—Calbone 16, Ritual 13, Sedillo 9,  
**See ISLANDER on Page 27**



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
Islander Rent a Car's Fradel Sedillo, right, pulls up for a shot against Saipan Vegas' Haejun Park during their game in the Masters Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.